CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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'COMPLETE DEMOLITION'

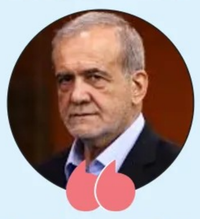
Trump's ultimatum for Iran just hours away with little sign of breakthrough; the deadline for Iran to strike a ceasefire deal ends at 8 pm ET on Tuesday (5:30 am IST on Wednesday); Iran remains firm on its demands; Iran rejects flexibility as long as US demands surrender

'Whole civilization will die tonight'

A whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again. I don't want that to happen, but it probably will. We will find out tonight, one of the most important moments in the long and complex history of the world.

—Donald Trump, US President

'14 million ready to sacrifice'



Over 14 million proud Iranians have, up to this moment, declared their readiness to sacrifice their lives in defence of Iran. I, too, have been, am, and will be a sacrificer for Iran.

—Masoud Pezeshkian, Iranian President

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday issued a fresh warning stating "whole civilisation will die tonight" as his deadline to Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz neared.

"A whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again. I don't want that to happen, but it probably will," Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

"We will find out tonight, one of the most important moments in the long and complex history of the World."

Earlier, a US military official said they carried out additional strikes on military targets on Iran's Kharg island, adding the strikes did not impact oil infrastructure.

The US President has time and again issued threats to target Iranian structures and top officials. Last week Trump said that the US military had 'nearly accomplished its goals' in Iran, but offered no clear timeline for ending the monthlong war and vowed to bomb the country back into the "Stone Ages."

CALL TO FORM HUMAN SHIELDS

Iran's Deputy Sports Minister, Alireza Rahimi, separately called on the nation's athletes and artists to form "human chains" around power plants — a symbolic and physical attempt to deter potential airstrikes. In a video message, he invited youth, athletes, artists, students, and faculty to gather near power plants on Tuesday at 2 PM local time. "These are our wealth and belongings," he said. The call for human shields comes in response to Trump's "8:00 PM deadline" (Washington time, Tuesday night) for Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

Strikes hit Iran's Kharg Island

WASHINGTON

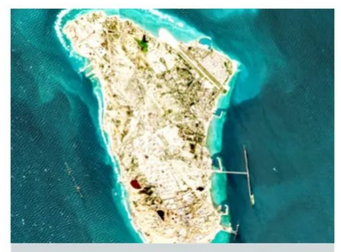
The US military on Tuesday hit 50 military targets on Kharg Island, Iran's strategic oil hub, according to The Wall Street Journal. The strikes, which were first reported by Iran's semi-official Mehr News Agency, came hours before a deadline set by US President Donald Trump for the Islamic Republic to strike a ceasefire deal ends at 8 pm ET onTuesday (5:30 am IST on Wednesday).

The strikes also came a day after Trump said he was "very upset" with Iran for rejecting his ceasefire plan and warned that Tehran would "pay a big price" if it failed to reach a deal. While Iran called for a permanent end to the conflict, now in its sixth week, under broader conditions, Trump indicated there would be serious consequences if no agreement is reached.

Restraint is over: IRGC

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) issued a warning following the US strikes on Kharg Island, saying 'restraint is over', sparking fresh concerns of a severe disruption to regional crude supplies.

The IRGC warned that it could turn energy infrastructure linked to the US and its allies "into ashes", threatening to disrupt oil and gas flows across the region "for years." The warning came after Trump said last weekend that he was considering whether US forces could seize the island.



Why Kharg Island is so important?

Kharg Island serves as Iran's main oil export terminal, handling up to 90% of its crude shipments and offering storage capacity of around 30 million barrels. Located about 26 km off Iran's coast and 483 km northwest of the Strait of Hormuz, Kharg is often dubbed the "Forbidden Island" due to its isolation and heavy security presence. Last month, the US struck military targets on Kharg Island, targeting military installations. The strikes destroyed naval mine storage and missile bunkers, while oil infrastructure was largely spared.

2 killed after US-Israeli attack on rail bridge in central Iran

Tehran: Two people lost their lives after a US-Israeli launched an attack on a rail bridge in the central Iranian city of Kashan, a regional official told state media on Tuesday. "A few minutes ago, the American-Zionist aggressor attacked the Yahya Abad railway bridge in Kashan city," a senior regional security official in Isfahan province, Akbar Salehi, was quoted as saying by Iran's IRNA news agency. "Two people were martyred, and three others were injured in this attack," he added. Following the attack, the key highway in northern Iran has been, according to the regional authorities.

Iran freezes diplomatic channels

Following the threats by Donald Trump, Iran on Tuesday froze all diplomatic channels and indirect talks. Iranian embassies in South Africa also responded to Trump's threats, saying, "You and your allies will suffer an unforgettable hit from the ancient civilization of Iran."

Iran railway movement disrupted

Railway movement in Iran's Mashhad was halted after Israel issued a warning advising Iranians to avoid using the country's railway network until 9 p.m. local time. In a post on X, the Israel Defense Forces' Farsi page cautioned that being near trains and railway lines "puts your lives in danger."

K'taka transport, tourism sectors seek urgent relief

Bengaluru: The Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association has urged the Centre to announce immediate financial aid for the transport and tourism sectors, citing severe distress caused by West Asia crisis. In a representation addressed to PM Modi on April 7, it stated the disruption of international travel and trade has significantly impacted business. Suspension of flights and reduced movement between countries have led to a sharp decline in demand, affecting transport operators and tourism stakeholders across Karnataka and the country.

Stay indoors, avoid military areas: India issues advisory

TEHRAN

The Indian Embassy in Iran issued an advisory warning its nationals in Iran to stay indoors and avoid military installations or multi-storey buildings for the next 48 hours amid the escalating US-Israel attacks on Tuesday.

The advisory comes even as the US and Israeli attacks on Iran targeted road, railway bridges and residential buildings in the country, apart from key oil hub Kharg Island.

"In continuation of previous advisories, Indian nationals who are still in Iran must stay where they are for the next 48 hours, avoiding all electric, military installations and upper floors of multi-storey buildings, remaining indoors, and coordinating any highway movement strictly with the Embassy," the embassy's advisory read.

It also urged those living in Embassy-hired hotels to stay put indoors while maintaining regular contact with on-site embassy teams. "All are requested to monitor official updates closely," it added.

US President Donald Trump has warned that a "whole civilization will die tonight" if Iran does not meet his 8 pm Eastern Time deadline (5:30 am Indian time, Wednesday) to end its blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

SHORTS FROM WAR FRONT

- Bahrain intercepts scores of Iranian warheads
- Bahraini air defenses have been facing Iranian warheads almost daily, targeting vital sites, including the airport, ports and a desalination plant
- A 25-km bridge, the only road connection to Bahrain, was closed due to Iranian threats
- Israel refrains from striking Lebanese-Syrian border crossing after mediation efforts, source says
- Russia says Middle East war disruption opens up new trade opportunities

Two children killed in bomb blast in Manipur

GUWAHATI

Two children, including a five-month baby boy, were killed and their mother was injured in a bomb attack, suspected to have been carried out by Kuki insurgents, in Manipur's Meitei-dominated Bishnupur district on Tuesday.

Police sources said the incident occurred at around 1 am when a bomb was hurled by suspected militants at a house in Moirang Tronglaobi area, killing a 5-year-old boy and a six-month-old girl, who were fast asleep with their mother.

Bishnupur shares boundary with Kuki-dominated Churachandpur district.

According to local residents, a suspected projectile struck the house causing a powerful explosion that instantly claimed the lives of two children. The powerful blast destroyed parts of the house and spread panic across the village. Locals rushed to rescue as shock and anger grew.

Security forces have cordoned off the area, with additional deployments rushed to the sensitive belt to prevent further escalation. Authorities are also conducting surveillance and search operations in nearby hilly areas while monitoring other vulnerable villages located along the hill-valley boundary.

Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum, a forum of Kuki civil society, issued a statement at 10.15 am in which it rejected the allegation about involvement of the Kukis in the attack.

Condemning the attack, former Manipur CM N Biren Singh said, "Such a horrific act against civilians, especially young lives, is beyond condemnable."

'Barbaric act': CM orders NIA probe

Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh order a probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) into the dead of two kids. Terming it a barbaric act, the CM said it may be the work of elements opposed to peace and directed security forces to swiftly arrest those responsible. He visited the hospital where the mother of the kids was admitted.

Internet shut, curfew in Manipur

The Manipur government suspended mobile internet for three days across five districts after two children were killed in a bomb explosion. The incident set off fresh protests and violence in the restive state. The internet shutdown applies to Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, Kakching and Bishnupur districts, according to the Home Department.

QUICK READ

SIR in remaining 17 states, 5 UTs likely post Assembly polls

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission may roll out the third and final phase of SIR of voter list in the remaining 22 states and UTs, including Delhi, after the upcoming five assemby polls, officials said. Assembly elections are taking place in Kerala, Assam, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal this month and counting will take place on May 4.

Leopard shot dead near Periyapatna, Min orders probe

MYSURU: A two-year-old female leopard was found dead with gunshot injuries on the forest fringes in Hunsur wildlife division of Mysuru district on Monday. Learning about this, Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre has expressed shock and has directed for a comprehensive probe over the leopard's death.

5 cows burnt alive fire breaks out in plywood shop in DJ Halli

BENGALURU: Five cows were burnt alive and several others were injured after a devastating fire broke out at a cowshed near Shampura Road in DJ Halli in the wee hours on Tuesday. The fire, which broke out around 1.45 am in an adjacent plywood shop, spread to the cowshed, engulfing it in flames. The cowshed had 19 cows, and locals managed to rescue 14 of them. However, five cows were trapped and died in the fire. The fire also damaged five two-wheelers and a Tata Ace goods vehicle. The owner, Srinivas, has lost six cows in the incident, and three cows are injured. The police have launched an investigation into the incident and the cause of the fire is yet to be determined. The injured cows are receiving treatment. Fire tenders were deployed to control the blaze, and the blaze was eventually brought under control. The DJ Halli police are investigating the case.

FAITH BEYOND JUDICIAL REVIEW

Centre backs Sabarimala women entry restriction in SC

NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday vehemently contended before the Supreme Court that the issue of restriction on the entry of women aged between 10 and 50 years at the Sabarimala temple falls within the domain of religious faith as well as denominational autonomy and is beyond the scope of judicial review.

A nine-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant commenced hearing on petitions related to discrimination against women at religious places in various religions and the proceedings assumed significance as they started ahead of crucial assembly polls in Kerala, where the Sabarimala is located.

Referring to the right of religious freedom under Article 25 of the Constitution, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta appearing for the Centre, however, said courts can always intervene if religious practices violate 'public order', 'morality' and 'health'.

The top court observed that if there is a social ill which is branded as a religious practice then the court can examine whether it is an essential religious practice or a social evil.

Justices BV Nagarathna, MM Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, Augustine George Masih, Prasanna B Varale, R Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi was told by Mehta that if there is something unscientific, the remedy is with the legislature.

Justice Bagchi told Mehta that courts are not experts in science but the Evidence Act empowers the court to examine the opinions of experts and become an expert of experts.

Mehta submitted that he had strong objection to an observation in the 2018 Sabarimala judgment that the exclusion of women in the age group of 10-50 years from the temple was a form of 'untouchability', violating Article 17 of the Constitution.

Justice Nagarathna said a woman cannot be treated as "untouchable" for three days in a month and then cease to be considered untouchable on the fourth day. "Article 17 in the context of Sabarimala, I don't know how it can be argued. Speaking as a woman, there can't be a three-day untouchability every month, and on the fourth day, there is no untouchability," she observed.

Mehta said that he was not on the issue of menstruation. He said the bar on women's entry to the Sabarimala temple was not related to menstruation, and said the restriction was only on the basis of age group. "Let us be clear. Sabarimala concerns only a particular age group. There should be no confusion. Lord Ayyappa temples across the country and the world are open to women of all ages. It is a sui generis case," he said.

QUICK READ

1 more rail coach restaurant commissioned

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Soon, KSR Bengaluru railway station will get a second eatery themed on the lines of a train compartment. This will be the third rail coach restaurant in Bengaluru. Currently, two such restaurants are functional in KSR Bengaluru and SMVT Bengaluru stations, respectively, and both are licenced out to private operators. A third rail coach restaurant is under commissioning to enhance passenger experience. Work is going on and is expected to be completed in 45 days. It will be located at the third entry of the station, South Western Railway's Bengaluru Divisional Railway Manager, Ashutosh Kumar Singh, said.

BWSSB offers 1-time settlement of pending bills

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has officially rolled out the One-Time Settlement (OTS) scheme to help consumers with long-pending water bills. Of the approximately 11 lakh connections, 5.1 lakh consumers have outstanding bills. The board's February-end data puts the total arrears at Rs 851.3 crore, including the principal amount of Rs 539 crore and accumulated interest of Rs 312 crore. To simplify clearance of these dues and ease financial burden on consumers, OTS scheme will be implemented for a three-month window, April to June 2026.

Probe against airport staffer in harassment case to go on

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The High Court has refused to interfere with the investigation against a Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) staffer accused of sexually harassing a South Korean woman passenger at Kempegowda International Airport. Justice M Nagaprasanna dismissed a petition filed by Mohammed Affan Ahmed (25), a ground staffer who had challenged the FIR registered by BIAL police. At immigration, you made a South Korean woman stand in a T position and touched her. Tell me, should you be spared, the Judge asked during the hearing. Referring to the complaint, the Court said the woman had detailed the alleged acts. Why did you take her to the gents' toilet. The justification is that the ladies' toilet was occupied.

Park wrong, pay big as towing returns to B'luru

Citywide towing aims to curb illegal parking and traffic congestion. GBA and traffic police launch joint action, with fines of ₹650 for bikes and ₹1,000 for cars

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a major move to tackle Bengaluru's worsening traffic congestion, authorities have officially restarted towing operations across the city from Monday after a long gap. The decision comes as part of a coordinated effort between the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the Traffic Police Department to clear illegal parking and improve road discipline.

The towing drive, which was initially tested on a trial basis in central parts of the city, has now been expanded across Bengaluru following its successful implementation. Officials say the focus is not only on easing traffic flow but also on ensuring that footpaths and roadside spaces are not misused by parked vehicles.

As per the revised enforcement, vehicles found parked in unauthorized locations will be towed away and fined. Two-wheelers will attract a penalty of Rs 650, which includes both the fine and towing charges. For four-wheelers, the total penalty has been fixed at Rs 1000. Authorities have clearly stated that the fine component will go to the Traffic Police Department, while the towing charges will be credited to the GBA.

To strengthen the operation, at least two towing vehicles have been assigned to each GBA zone. Towing vehicles have already been handed over to the Traffic Police in North and Central divisions. The officials have also prepared a list of abandoned vehicles lying on roadsides, and these will be the first to be removed as part of the drive.

Strict instructions have been issued to motorists to park only in designated 'parking bays'. Vehicles parked outside these marked areas will face immediate action. GBA Commissioner has directed the Traffic Police to enforce the rules strictly to ensure better traffic management across the city.

Authorities believe that consistent enforcement of these measures will help reduce congestion and improve accessibility for pedestrians, making city roads safer and more organized.

144 TICKET TOUTS HELD IN BENGALURU RAIL DIVISION

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

With the demand for train tickets increasing, especially during festive seasons and other peak demand periods, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) is dealing with a significant challenge of touts, who book live tickets without proper authorisation and sell them to passengers for a commission.In 2025-26, as many as 144 such touts were arrested in South Western Railway's (SWR) Bengaluru division alone.

RPF officials said the presence of touts usually increases during peak demand periods and in Tatkal quota. The touts arrested in 2025-26 were caught with 277 live tickets, most in bulk, which RPF estimated to be worth just over Rs 4 lakh. These touts are mostly those who pretend to be agents without getting licence from Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)

They create their own passwords with their phone numbers by buying 2-3 sim cards. Then they create multiple user IDs without licence, said a senior Bengaluru division RPF officer. Touts usually book tickets online in bulk when they are opened for sale 60 days before journey date. However, with the online push by IRCTC, RPF said the numbers have come down in recent years. We're suggesting that all passengers opt for the online mode to buy tickets and this is part of the railway strategy to curb the menace of unending queues and alterca-tions happening near booking windows.

We're actively engaged in online surveillance, we have a cyber cell within the division and in that cell, we analyse the charts and ticket reservation patterns to figure out the touts, Bengaluru RPF's Senior Divisional Security Commissioner, Shreyans Chinchawade, told. However, the huge push towards online tickets has impacted the economically weaker sections who lack funds to pay the commission for registered agents. Migrant workers often camp in reservation offices a night before to book Tatkal tickets. One such incident at Bengaluru Cantonment last week had led to brawls between passengers over long queues.

All for 'love': Man slits friend's throat after drinking spree

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 42-year-old man was murdered by his friend after consuming alcohol near Kick Bunk Bar in RK Township Layout in Yarandahalli near Bommasandra on the night of March 25. The accused, identified as Basudev Mallick (30), had stuffed the body in a plastic gunny bag and escaped. The deceased was identified as Sunil Nayak, a construction labourer. The accused, Mallick, a native of Odisha, also worked as a construction labourer along with Nayak.Nayak and his wife Pushpa had rented a house in Police Layout in Yarandahalli. On March 26, Pushpa approached the house owner, N Anand, informing him that her husband had gone missing. She told him that he had last visited the house around 2 pm on March 25 for lunch and had not returned home, and was not reachable on the phone.Anand, Pushpa, and her relatives went in search of Nayak and found a gunny bag in an empty space near the bar. They found Nayak's body stuffed in the bag around 4 pm, prompting Anand to alert the police via helpline 112. The Hebbagodi police, after reaching the spot, found that someone had killed Nayak by slitting his throat.

A case of murder was registered, and during the investigation, police found that Nayak and Mallick had purchased liquor at a bar. Based on the clues, police began searching for Mallick. After nabbing the accused, police learned that Mallick had allegedly developed intentions to be in a relationship with Pushpa. He believed that eliminating Nayak would clear the way for him. On the night of the incident, Mallick targeted Nayak when he was under the influence of alcohol. He slit Nayak's throat with a knife, killing him on the spot. He then stuffed the body in a gunny bag and planned to dispose of it elsewhere. However, noticing people near the bar, he abandoned the body.

Biklu murder: Govt goes to HC for cancellation of Byrathi's bail

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The state government (CID) has filed a petition in the High Court seeking quashing of the order of the Special Court of People's Representatives granting bail to KR Pura MLA Byrathi Basavaraj in the murder case of rowdy sheeter Shivaprakash alias Biklu Shiva.

The CID investigating officer has filed a criminal application seeking the quashing of the order issued by the city's Special Court of People's Representatives on March 12, 2026. In the application, KR Pura MLA Byrathi Basavaraj, who is the 5th accused in the case, has been made a respondent. The application is yet to come up for hearing.

The investigation into the case has not been completed yet. The accused was granted bail while the investigation was ongoing. Due to this, it has been impossible to complete the investigation into the case. Therefore, it has been requested in the petition that the accused's bail be cancelled.

The Special Court of People's Representatives, which had granted bail to the accused, had already completed the investigation into the case while the applicant was in police custody. The fact that there is no need to conduct further investigation in police custody will be clear from the remand application filed by the CID investigators. Therefore, the applicant can be granted bail with strict conditions, it had granted bail.

Rowdysheeter Biklu Shiva alias Shivaprakash was murdered in July 2025 in front of a house near Halasuru Lake in Bengaluru. Based on the complaint filed by the deceased's mother Vijayalakshmi, an FIR was registered at Bharathinagar police station in connection with the murder. Later, the investigation of the case was transferred to the CID police.

The fifth accused, Byrathi Basavaraj, and the 18th accused, who were investigated, had submitted a 4,236-page charge sheet to the Special Court of People's Representatives. Later, Byrathi Basavaraj's anticipatory bail application was dismissed by the High Court and the verdict was given on February 10, 2026.

On February 12, the Supreme Court also denied anticipatory bail to Bairati Basavaraj. Due to this, Byrathi Basavaraj was arrested on that day. Later, the Special Court of People's Representatives granted bail on March 12.

South to east, layout approvals map city's shifting growth

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The evolution of the city's urban sprawl can be traced not only through skylines, but also through layouts on paper. Data from Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) shows how the city's growth has steadily moved across regions over the past five decades, following land, jobs, and infrastructure changes. Between 1972 and 2025, BDA approved 1,017 layouts across the city.

In the early decades, development was firmly rooted in south Bengaluru, which still accounts for 40-43 percent of all approved layouts. Neighbourhoods such as Uttarahalli, Begur, and Kengeri became the first major hubs of planned expansion, together accounting for hundreds of layouts. Large parcels of land, coupled with proximity to the city's older core, made the southern belt a natural starting point for organised growth.

But by the 1980s and 1990s, the city's expansion had begun to shift. North Bengaluru, particularly Yeshwantpur and Yelahanka, saw a rise in layout approvals, driven largely by cooperative housing societies.

This marked a phase where organised residential planning began to spread beyond the southern base. The next major shift came after 2000, when the city's growth tilted eastwards.

What had once been peripheral zones with limited presence in BDA records emerged as key sites of new development, reflecting the pull of employment hubs and improved connectivity. A senior BDA official said the pattern of approvals closely mirrors demand and infrastructure. Applications are placed before the town planning committee. After the committee's approval, a plan is issued. We go through all the documents to ensure that the plan approvals are in line with the rules and regulations, the official said, adding that applications are now coming in from across the city. Despite these geographic shifts, one constant stands out: the dominance of residential growth. Nearly 90 percent of all approved layouts, about 900 are residential, while industrial and commercial layouts together account for fewer than 20.

'1 in 10 layouts undergoes revisions'

At least one in 10 layouts has undergone revisions after initial approval, often to accommodate changes in design or infrastructure as demand rises. Taken together, the numbers sketch a clear trajectory: from south-led expansion to northward spread, and then an eastward push shaped by the IT economy. In doing so, BDA's layout approvals offer a blueprint of how Bengaluru has grown and continues to reshape itself.

No cdomestic LPG crunch: 'CM, DyCM waiting to light fire'

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

There is no problem with LPG for homes. Opposition leader R. Ashok has alleged that the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister are waiting to set fire to it.

Speaking at the Malleshwaram BJP office, he hit back at the state government criticizing the central government over the LPG and auto gas problem in the state, saying that first DKSH should apologize to the people of the state. DKSH is making a fuss about the gas issue. It is not just a problem for our state, it is a problem for all countries. In Pakistan, a very favorite country of the Congress, a country that Rahul Gandhi admires, the price of petrol is Rs 500. What does the Congress say about this? He asked.

The person who planted the cooker bomb is also from Pakistan. The person who planted the cooker bomb is not called DK Shivakumar's brother. DK Shivakumar should have known what is happening in Pakistan, Bangladesh, America and London first. Even though there is a war going on, Modi has talked to Iran and released the ships. The ships are coming from Iran smoothly. He said he is thankful to Modi for this.

MLA Ashwath Narayan responded, saying that the state government should talk with figures. Let them say how much supply, how much shortage. People have a problem. But the government should talk correctly with figures.

The central government has increased the availability of commercial cylinders. But some people are taking advantage of this. Some are selling in the black market. The state government should control this. It is not right for the Congress to talk about politics without doing this work.

'Delimitation will cause economic hardship to southern states'

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bangalore Milk Union Limited (BAMUL) president and Congress leader D.K. Suresh on Tuesday alleged that the delimitation of Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies would not only reduce the number of seats for South Indian States but would also lead to serious economic hardship.

Speaking to media persons in Bengaluru, Mr. Suresh said, "The southern States need to wake up. Whether seats are gained or lost is not the point." He was replying to a question regarding the Prime Minister's claim that delimitation would not result in a loss of seats for South India.

RELIEF FROM TRAFFIC JAM

Ejipura flyover set for Aug opening, 70% work done

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Flyover likely to open for traffic in early August as GBA speeds up work; pending hurdles near St. John's cleared

Bengaluru's long-awaited Ejipura flyover is finally nearing completion, with authorities confirming that the structure will be opened for vehicular movement in the first week of August. The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has intensified efforts to complete the remaining work within the set timeline.

According to GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao, nearly 70% of the flyover construction has already been completed. He stated that the entire project is expected to be finished by the end of July, paving the way for its public opening soon after. One of the major hurdles that had slowed down the project, installation of pillars near St. John's, has now been resolved. With this issue cleared, construction activities have picked up pace significantly. Officials have also

accelerated segment casting work to ensure there are no further delays.

To meet the deadline, strict instructions have been given to carry out construction work round the clock. Authorities have directed teams to work continuously for 24 hours to fast-track completion.

Alongside the main flyover structure, ramp construction is also being expedited. Special focus has been placed on completing the down ramp towards Madiwala at the earliest, as it is a crucial component for smooth traffic flow once the flyover is operational.

GBA officials believe that once opened, the Ejipura flyover will ease congestion in one of the city's busiest corridors and improve connectivity for commuters. The project, which has faced delays in the past, is now in its final stages with visible progress on the ground.

QUICK READ

Assaulted by friends for not hosting b-day party

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a shocking incident, a youth was allegedly assaulted by his friends in Doddaballapur for not hosting a birthday party. The incident took place at around 5 pm on Monday, near the Indian Oil petrol pump near Gundamagere Cross in Doddaballapur taluk. Ramkumar (24) was injured in the incident and is undergoing treatment at a private hospital. A case has been registered at Doddaballapur Rural police station on the basis of a complaint lodged by Ram Kumar's brother Supreet D Naik. A case has been registered against Shivakumar and 12 others. A group of Kiran's friends attacked me alleging that I was responsible for the injuries caused to Kiran. I was attacked with a bike key and a knife and I sustained injuries on my forehead, jaw and chest, Ramkumar said.

MICO Layout police raid window thieves

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a major operation, the MICO Layout police have arrested two Khiladi thieves who were targeting houses with windows or doors open. The arrested have been identified as Kabir Hussain (25) and Abu Shahid (25). They would identify houses in apartments with windows or doors open and steal valuables including mobile phones, laptops and other valuables from the notice of those sleeping. Police have seized 23 mobile phones, three laptops and a tab worth Rs 5.79 lakh from the accused. Police said Kabir Hussain had previous cases of theft registered against him in Banashankari and Koramangala police stations.

Accident, elder brother dies in front of younger brother

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Two brothers who were returning to Bangalore on the same bike after finishing the village fair met with a terrible accident. The elder brother died on the spot in front of his younger brother's eyes after colliding with a tractor on the highway. The younger brother, who was sitting in the back, suffered minor injuries and was admitted to the hospital. This heartbreaking incident took place near Kengal Kempohalli in Nelamangala taluk. The young man who died in the accident, Vishwanath (26), hailing from Arasikere in Hassan district, had secured a good job in a private company in Peenya. His brother Vinay was studying CA.

Land delays, contract exit slow down BSRP

148-km suburban rail plan faces hurdles as land acquisition issues and Centre-state differences stall key corridors

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru's ambitious Suburban Rail Project (BSRP), approved in 2020 with a six-year deadline, is struggling to maintain momentum due to delays in land acquisition and coordination issues between the Centre and the state government.

The project, spanning 148 km, is being implemented by Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Ltd, a joint venture between the Union and Karnataka governments. However, progress across multiple corridors has been uneven, with some stretches facing major setbacks.

Two important corridors - Byappanahalli to Rajanukunte and Heelalige to Rajanukunte - have been significantly affected. In 2025, construction major Larsen & Toubro exited parts of the project, citing non-availability of land as per agreed terms. Following this, K-Ride floated fresh tenders for pending work on the Byappanahalli-Chikkabanavara stretch.

In Parliament, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw stated that land acquisition for the 25-km Byappanahalli-Chikkabanavara corridor

has now been completed. Contracts for station buildings have been awarded, and construction work is currently in progress. Additional tenders for remaining components have also been issued.

However, progress on the 46.2-km Heelalige-Rajanukunte corridor remains slow. Out of the required 57 acres of land, only 7.8 acres have been acquired so far. The Minister pointed out that delays are mainly due to pending acquisition of private land and the slow transfer of state government land. No revised timeline for completion has been announced yet.

Work on the remaining two corridors - KSR Bengaluru City to Devanahalli (41.4 km) and Kengeri to Whitefield (35.5 km) - is still in early stages. While alignments have been approved and land acquisition has begun, actual construction has not picked up pace. The airport connectivity line to Devanahalli, initially prioritised for better access to Kempegowda International Airport, has also seen slow progress.

The project has also witnessed administrative challenges. Differences between the Centre and the state had earlier delayed key decisions, including the appointment of a full-time managing director for K-Ride. In December 2025, both sides appointed IRSE officer Lakshman Singh to the post, aiming to bring more stability to the project's execution.

With critical infrastructure at stake, timely resolution of land and coordination issues will be crucial for the future of Bengaluru's suburban rail network.

Min alleges discrimination in energy supply to states

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Food and Civil Supplies Minister KH Muniyappa has alleged that a discriminatory policy is being followed with the state of Karnataka. It has also come to his attention that there is no equality between the states in energy supply.

In a press release in this regard, he said that the responsibility of supplying LPG gas, commercial gas cylinders, CNG, petrol and diesel in the country lies entirely with the Central Government. This system is implemented through the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. It is a matter for the public to note that the state government does not have the authority to directly control this supply.

Meanwhile, the war in the West Asia (Gulf countries) region has disrupted global energy supplies. Its impact is being felt severely within the country, with 4 gas and fuel shortages in Karnataka as well. This has put the daily lives of people in distress, he said.

Auto drivers are suffering due to CNG shortage, hotels and food industries are suffering due to commercial gas shortage, housewives are struggling due to lack of gas for cooking. When you look at all this, it is clear that the central government has failed to take timely measures. There is a lack of coordination between foreign policy and energy management, and the burden has fallen on the people, he criticized.

In this context, the state government urges the central government to immediately take strict steps to increase fuel and gas supply, ensure equitable distribution among the states, and give necessary priority to Karnataka. Keeping in mind the interest of the people of the state, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has written a letter to the Union Petroleum Minister on this issue, he said.

Similarly, I have also written to the Union Petroleum Minister requesting him to take the matter seriously. The Minister said that he is in constant touch with the Central Government and all necessary steps will be taken to resolve the issue.

'No equality in energy supply'

It has also been noticed that there is no equality in energy supply among the states. It seems that some states are being given more priority. There is also concern that a discriminatory policy is being followed with the state of Karnataka. This has led to lakhs of people in the state suffering unnecessary hardship, Minister KH Muniyappa said.

Bypoll between poor and rich, Cong will lose: R Ashoka

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In this by-election, there will be a contest between the poor and the rich. Congress will lose this election, and the future of the state will be decided, said Opposition Leader R Ashoka.

Speaking at a press conference, he said that in Davanagere and Bagalkote, the election is being fought between the poor and the rich. Since Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said, make the poor win, the BJP has fielded poor candidates. In Davanagere, if the Congress candidate wins, it is understood that Muslims will not get opportunities in the future, and therefore Muslims are opposing the Congress party. Minister Zameer Ahmed has run away without campaigning in his constituency, and there are differences of opinion about him.

Ashoka said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who talks about backward classes uniting, has not given even a single ticket to backward class candidates.

In Davanagere, the BJP has given a ticket to an ordinary person, whereas Congress has given tickets to powerful and influential people. In Bagalkote, there is a very good opinion about the BJP candidate. Congress has given space to dynastic politics in both places. Therefore, the BJP has a strong chance of winning in both constituencies.

Congress leaders have indulged in rowdyism in Bagalkote and a complaint has been filed regarding this. Due to the government's corruption and the poor implementation of guarantee schemes, an anti-incumbency wave has been created. After presenting the budget, they are now imposing taxes on everything, he alleged.

The administration in the state has collapsed. No development projects are being taken up. DK Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah are fighting with each other for the Chief Minister's chair. This by-election will expose the real face of Congress. Congress is trying to convert minorities into a vote bank, he said.

This by-election will provide an opportunity to throw out the Congress government and will decide the future. This is a golden opportunity for the people to teach the government a lesson, he added.

Siddaramaiah is no longer a leader of the backward classes. His clothes, shawl, pen, and entire lifestyle are that of a forward-class person. But when it comes to votes, he only wants backward classes. Therefore, he is the "forward leader" of the backward classes, Ashoka remarked.

5 held in Varthur for assault on woman over flesh trade allegation

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

3In a shocking incident reported from Varthur in Bengaluru, city police have arrested five individuals, including three women, for allegedly breaking into a house and brutally assaulting a young woman over accusations of running a flesh trade racket.

The accused have been identified as Fateh Dafedar, his wife Seema Dafedar, SK Baban, Suknhar Khatun, and Asura Khatun. All of them are daily wage workers and natives of West Bengal, according to police.

The incident took place on the night of April 4, when the group allegedly forced their way into the victim's residence and attacked her. Police said the accused claimed they had caught the woman red-handed. At the time of the assault, a man was reportedly present inside the house but fled the scene after witnessing the attack.

The victim, who is also from West Bengal, had moved to Bengaluru nearly four months ago in search of work. Following the incident, she approached the police and filed a complaint on Sunday night.

In her statement, the woman alleged that she had been under constant watch by associates of the accused for some time. Despite warning them multiple times and even threatening to take legal action, the harassment allegedly continued.

She told police that she believes the attack may have been carried out as a result of her warnings.

Youth Cong ex-secy Vivek funds new classrooms at Kodigehalli Govt School

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a significant step towards improving educational infrastructure, two new classrooms were inaugurated at the Government Higher Primary School in Kodigehalli, under KR Puram Hobli in Bengaluru East Taluk.

Addressing the gathering, School Development and Monitoring Committee President and Kodigehalli and Layouts Association President H Venkatesh, highlighted the growing need for additional classrooms.

With around 220 students currently studying and the school recently upgraded from lower primary to higher primary, there is a shortage of classrooms. We urge the government to sanction three more classrooms in the interest of students," he stated.

Senior Advocate Prabhakar, who attended as the chief guest, appreciated the contribution made by Vivek, former State Youth Congress Secretary and former President of the Unorganized Workers' Unit of Bengaluru Central Congress.

Vivek has constructed these additional classrooms at a personal cost of Rs 20 lakh and donated them to the school. His service is truly commendable and sets an example for society, he said.

Donors Narayana and SDMC members Varadaraju, Dinesh Reddy, Prakash Singh, Prashanth, and Mehboob Pasha were present at the event.

Headmistress Vimala Bhai, District Teachers' Association Treasurer MK Venkataramaiah and the teaching staff participated in the programme.

2 held for blackmailing woman with pvt videos

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A shocking case of online blackmail has come to light, highlighting the risks of connecting with strangers on social media platforms. A married woman was allegedly trapped, threatened and extorted by two men who first contacted her through Snapchat.

According to police, the accused befriended the woman around one-and-a-half years ago on the social media platform. What started as a casual online interaction soon turned into regular communication, with the two sides exchanging

phone numbers and continuing conversations through calls and chats.

During one such interaction, the accused reportedly recorded screenshots of private moments during a WhatsApp video call. Using these visuals, they began threatening the woman, warning her that the photos and videos would be shared with her husband, family members and on social media platforms.

Under pressure and fear, the woman was blackmailed over time and forced to hand over money and gold ornaments in multiple instances. Unable to bear the harassment, she finally informed her husband about the situation.

Following this, a complaint was filed at the KR Puram Police Station. Acting on the complaint, police launched an operation and arrested two accused from Andhra Pradesh, Chennuru Mahesh and Vannuru Swamy.

Sexual harassment charges: Seer alleges ₹3 cr blackmail plot

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Serious allegations of sexual harassment and blackmail have surfaced against Panchamasali seer Basavajaya Mrutyunjaya Swamiji, even as the seer has filed a counter-complaint claiming an extortion attempt and conspiracy to defame him.

A woman has lodged a detailed complaint with the State Women's Commission, alleging that the seer sexually exploited her and threatened to release private videos.

The complaint has also been submitted to the Chief Minister, Home Minister, and the Human Rights Commission.

According to the woman, she had been in contact with the seer for the past two to three years after initially connecting with him over social media platforms such as Snapchat. The interaction later moved to phone calls and chats.

She alleged that the seer invited her to the mutt under the pretext of offering prasadam, where he behaved inappropriately, used objectionable language, and physically touched her in an indecent manner.

POWER PROBLEM ESCALATES

LPG crunch adds to K'taka power demand woes

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The state's electricity demand has skyrocketed for the last three weeks, and consumption is also increasing rapidly.

Along with the scorching summer heat, there are concerns that the Middle East war will further exacerbate the state's electricity demand. Against this backdrop, the Energy Department has kept a close watch on the electricity demand.

Usually, the demand for electricity in the state increases in April and May. As the temperature increases in summer, the use of ACs and coolers increases. Along with this, the use of agricultural pump sets also doubles. Thus, electricity consumption usually increases in summer. Therefore, this year too, the demand for electricity has increased in the state. However, this time, due to the Middle East war, there is a shortage of LPG, and most hotels and restaurants are resorting to induction and electric appliances. Thus, the demand for electricity is likely to increase further.

Electricity consumption has increased further in the month of March. In this one month, exactly 10,378 MU. electricity has been consumed in the state. An average of 335 MU. electricity has been consumed. Meanwhile, 1,649 MU. electricity has been consumed so far in the month of April. An average of 330 MU. electricity is being consumed. Last year, an average of 311 MU. electricity was consumed during the same period. This time, in the first week of April, there has been an increase of 19 MU. in the average electricity consumption.

The electricity demand in the BESCOM area is around 8,000 MW. Electricity demand and consumption increase in summer. There is no clarity on the increase in electricity consumption due to LPG shortage. We have been observing the statistics of increase in electricity consumption for some days. Electricity demand has increased. It is not known how much of this is due to LPG shortage. BESCOM's share in the total electricity demand and consumption in the state is about 50 percent. There is no possibility of a large increase in electricity consumption in the coming days due to LPG shortage, said BESCOM Managing Director Dr N Shivashankar.

QUICK READ

Koppal Municipality announces 2026-27 budget plans

KOPPAL

The Koppal Municipality has published its budget for the year 2026-27, approved by District Commissioner Dr. Suresh B. Itnal. Total receipts are estimated at Rs. 55.43 crore, including revenue of Rs. 35.60 crore, capital of Rs. 2.59 crore, and extraordinary receipts of Rs. 17.23 crore. Total payments amount to Rs. 55.27 crore, covering revenue, capital, and extraordinary expenses, leaving a saving of Rs. 15.95 lakh. The Municipal Commissioner stated the budget aims to ensure smooth administration and development projects, providing transparency and financial planning for Koppal residents.

Woman dies in KSRTC bus accident

KUNDAPURA

A 62-year-old woman, Alimabi, died after being hit by a KSRTC bus at Thekkatte on National Highway 66 around 10 p.m. Monday. Alimabi was returning from a wedding at the President Convention Center with three other women when the bus, reportedly speeding, struck her. She suffered fatal injuries and died on the spot. Kota Police visited the site and launched an investigation into the accident, while authorities warned drivers to exercise caution on busy roads.

Shivamogga Lingappa awards to honour five achievers

SHIVAMOGGA

The Global Human Rights Forum will organise the Comrade M Lingappa Award ceremony on April 9 in Shivamogga to honour five individuals for their service in different fields. The event will be held at Sri Kala Kaushalya Bhojpuri Kendra on RTO Road.The award is named after M Lingappa, a respected journalist and social activist known for his lifelong dedication and commitment to social justice. Organisers said the award is not just a recognition but also a source of inspiration and responsibility for the recipients.This year's awardees include Raghuraj Malnad from the cinema field, Renukesh from journalism, Qalandar Rajvi Bejjavalli from literature, K. Prasanna Gowda, and Rekesh Mane from the legal field. The forum said these individuals have made meaningful contributions in their respective areas.The programme will be attended by several dignitaries, including D. Ravikumar of Akshara Education Trust, former municipal member G. Gopalakrishna, South Block Congress President Kalim Pasha, and lawyer Geetha Mane.

Only CM, i decide on power transfer: D K Shivakumar

Shivakumar said only KPCC, CM statements matter, declined CM speculation, expressed confidence in winning Davanagere South and Bagalkote by-elections

HUBBALLI

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Tuesday clarified that only the words of the Chief Minister and himself carry weight on matters of power transfer in the state. Speaking to reporters at Hubballi airport, the DCM, who is also the KPCC President, emphasized that statements by others do not matter."I am the KPCC President. On power transfer, only my statements and the CM's statements count. Others' comments hold no value," he said. When asked about Minister Parameshwara's remark that Siddaramaiah would remain Chief Minister until 2028, Shivakumar declined to respond. Regarding speculation about his own potential as CM after elections, he said, "Time will answer everything."On the ongoing by-elections in Davanagere South and Bagalkote, he expressed confidence in victory. "I have visited both constituencies. Campaigning is going very well. People are satisfied with our government's programs. The BJP has remained silent on price rise, and the Central Government has offered no relief. Our five guarantee schemes have supported the people. We will win both seats — there is no doubt," he said.Shivakumar also criticized the Central Government for neglecting South India. Responding to Union Minister Pralhad Joshi's suggestion of using petrol to counter gas shortages, he questioned why fuel shipments from Gulf countries went to Gujarat instead of South Indian ports like Mangaluru or Kerala. "South India is being neglected. Joshi has no political base here, which is why he is playing politics," he added.On Kerala elections, Shivakumar expressed optimism for the UDF alliance. "I and several MLAs have campaigned extensively there. People are fed up with 10 years of LDF rule. We are confident the UDF will secure a two-thirds majority. The LDF seems to have a secret understanding with BJP. NRIs are facing difficulties casting votes due to insufficient flights. I have personally attended 14 campaign meetings and roadshows," he said, praising Kerala's political discipline as a model to learn from.Shivakumar's statements underline his assertive role in the KPCC, confidence in by-election wins, and criticism of central neglect, reflecting the party's focus on regional issues and upcoming elections.

Periyapatna leopard death sparks probe, minister orders action

Authorities suspect a leopard was shot by poachers; three bullets found, samples sent for analysis, and Minister Khandre ordered investigation with strict legal action

MYSURU

A two-year-old female leopard was found dead in the Guledahalla area of Periyapatna taluk, raising suspicions of illegal hunting. Forest officials discovered the carcass on Monday and began an immediate inspection of the site.

Authorities suspect that poachers may have shot the leopard using a firearm. Initial reports indicate the incident may have occurred two days earlier. During the post-mortem, three bullets were found lodged inside the animal's body, strengthening concerns about poaching activities in the region. Samples have been sent for laboratory analysis to confirm the exact cause of death.

Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Ishwar Khandre has ordered a thorough investigation into the incident. He described the death as deeply disturbing and said it highlights the continued threat of illegal wildlife hunting. The minister directed officials to identify those responsible and take strict legal action against them.

He also instructed the Chief Wildlife Warden to review patrolling systems in the area and ensure better monitoring to prevent such incidents in the future. Officials have been warned that any negligence in forest patrol duties could lead to disciplinary action.

Forest officers, including senior officials, are continuing their investigation. Authorities said stronger steps will be taken to protect wildlife and prevent poaching, while efforts are underway to activate the Forest Crime Control Cell for stricter enforcement in sensitive forest areas.

Commissioner said Mysuru police conduct drives, re-arrest repeat drug offenders, seized 28 kg ganja from habitual seller Irfan Pasha

Mysuru Police crackdown sees thirty drug peddlers deported

MYSURU

City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar said that around 30 drug peddlers have been deported from Mysuru as part of strong action to control illegal drug activities in the city.

Speaking at a press conference, she said the police have been running special drives in different areas to make Mysuru drug-free. These operations have helped identify and remove repeat offenders involved in drug supply.

She added that one habitual offender has been sent to Ballari jail under the NDPS Act. Despite strict laws, many accused persons come out on bail and continue illegal activities. In such cases, police are taking them back into custody and filing fresh cases.

The Commissioner highlighted the case of Irfan Pasha, who had nine cases against him but continued selling drugs. Police seized 28 kg of ganja from him. A rowdy sheeter case has now been registered to monitor his activities closely.Along with drug control, police have also worked on recovering stolen mobile phones. In the past three months, 144 lost mobiles were found, and a total of 220 phones were traced and returned to 197 people.

Latkar advised citizens to act quickly if they lose their phones. She said people should block their mobile using the IMEI number to prevent misuse. She also suggested using the e-Lost app and registering complaints on the Central Equipment Identity Register portal to help trace devices.She urged the public to cooperate with police efforts and stay alert to keep the city safe.

SWR introduces modern coaches in Talaguppa -Mysore Express

HUBBALLI

South Western Railway has announced the introduction of modern Link Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches in the Talaguppa–Mysore Express trains starting April 8. The upgrade replaces older ICF coaches, aiming to provide passengers with a safer, smoother, and more comfortable travel experience.

The Talaguppa–Mysore–Talaguppa Daily Express will now run with a total of 18 LHB coaches. These include one AC chair car, five second-class chair cars, ten general second-class coaches, and special compartments with facilities for differently-abled passengers. The train will also have luggage-cum-brake vans for operational convenience.

Traffic police clear food carts from busy footpath

SHIVAMOGGA

Traffic police in Shivamogga removed food carts operating on the footpath along the busy RTO office road on Tuesday. The action was taken following public complaints and strict instructions from higher authorities.

The road houses several key offices, including the RTO office, Jayanagar police station, Patrika Bhavan, Forest Officers' Office, District Excise Bhavan, and Government Employees' Bhavan. It also sees regular movement of senior officials like the District Collector and Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer.

Due to heavy traffic and random parking of two-wheelers and four-wheelers, the area remains crowded throughout the day. The presence of food carts on the footpath made it difficult for pedestrians to move safely.

Responding to the situation, traffic police cleared the encroachments and temporarily shifted the carts to a space near the RTO office.

The move has been widely appreciated by the public, who said it has improved pedestrian movement and reduced congestion in the area.

Mangaluru Shriram Sarathi Sangama event set for April 9

MANGALURU

Shriram Finance Ltd. announced that it will host the "Shriram Sarathi Sangama" event on April 9 from 9 am to 5 pm at Adyar Garden. At a press meet held on Tuesday, company president and regional business head Sharachchandra Bhat Kakunje shared details of the programme.He said the event aims to support drivers, vehicle owners, workers and their families from the transport sector. Visitors can see new vehicles and machines from leading brands on display. Special discounts will be offered on bookings made during the event, along with a 50 percent cut in service charges and relaxed interest rates.The programme will also include free health check-ups, blood donation drives, and eye and ear tests. Students of transport workers who scored above 60 percent from classes 8 to 12 will receive guidance and application support. Several dignitaries, including public representatives and company leaders, are expected to attend as chief guests.The company currently operates ten branches in Dakshina Kannada district and continues to expand its outreach efforts through such initiatives.

MCC Bank reports strong growth with Rs 13cr profit

MANGALURU

MCC Bank has recorded a profit of Rs 13 crore for the financial year ending March 31, 2026, showing steady growth in its performance, said Chairman Anil Lobo.

Addressing a press conference, he said the bank's total business has reached Rs 1,525 crore, marking a 23 percent increase compared to the previous year. He added that the bank has reduced its net non-performing assets to 1.25 percent, reflecting improved financial discipline.

Lobo said the bank's business has grown three times in the past seven and a half years, from Rs 500 crore in 2018 to the current level. He called this a record achievement in the bank's 114-year history.

The bank's net worth has also increased from Rs 83.76 crore to Rs 91.80 crore. Deposits stood at Rs 872.88 crore, while loans reached Rs 652.06 crore, both showing significant growth.

MCC Bank has expanded beyond Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts and is now serving customers across the state. Recently, it opened new branches in Byndoor and Santekatte, taking the total number of branches to 21.

Plans are in place to open more branches, including in Deralakatte and Katapady, in the coming months. The bank also aims to reach 25 branches by the next financial year.

The bank offers various services, including home loans, education loans, and mobile banking facilities. Deposits are insured as per Reserve Bank of India guidelines.

Lobo credited the bank's success to customer trust and staff dedication, expressing confidence in achieving further growth ahead.

HARISH SLAMS VEERASHAIVA MAHASABHA OVER ALLEGATIONS

DAVANAGERE

BJP MLA B.P. Harish strongly criticized the All India Veerashaiva Mahasabha, alleging that it serves only rich and Congress-aligned members while ignoring the poor. Speaking at a press conference at the BJP office in the city, he accused its national president Ishwar Khandre of spreading false information during a recent community meeting.Harish alleged that the Mahasabha was being misused for corruption, political pressure, and gaining ministerial positions, with little benefit reaching ordinary Veerashaivas. He also raised environmental concerns, claiming untreated industrial waste from a sugar factory and distillery linked to a candidate's family was being released into the Tungabhadra river. Questioning Khandre's role as Forest Minister, he said such issues fall under his responsibility.Harish further claimed that fly ash and dust from industries were harming farmers' crops and that misleading statements were made in the Assembly. He rejected claims about contributions to education, saying local families and donors played a major role in building institutions and hospitals.The MLA also questioned cultural values, alleging actions that go against community traditions. He said a politician should not lead the Mahasabha, adding that it fails to represent common people.

ACCOUNTABILITY IN ACTION

Lokayukta raids multiple cities over assets case

SHIVAMOGGA

The Karnataka Lokayukta carried out major raids across several districts in Karnataka on Tuesday following allegations that some government officials had assets beyond their known income.

In Shivamogga, six locations linked to officials from the Backward Classes and Minorities Department were searched. Raids were conducted at houses in Navale Layout, Channakeshava Nagar, and Shikaripura, along with a farmhouse in Taralaghatta and a private school in Sagar taluk. Offices at Devaraj Aras Bhavan were also checked. The operation was led by DySP Chandrashekhar and Inspector Rudresh with multiple teams.

In Ballari, officials raided the residence and office of a Fisheries Department Assistant Director at four places. Complaints had been received against the officer regarding disproportionate assets.

Similar action was taken in Belagavi, where properties linked to District Urban Development Cell officials were inspected. Raids were held at houses in Anjaneya Nagar and also in Hukkeri and Athani taluks. Officials carefully examined documents during the searches. In Mysuru, Lokayukta teams searched the house and office of Public Works Department engineer Revanna. The raids were led by DySP Venkatesh, with searches carried out in both Mysuru and Mandya.

Sources said important documents were recovered during the raids, and verification is underway. Officials stated that strict action will follow if irregularities are confirmed.

The Lokayukta said such operations will continue to ensure transparency, accountability, and to curb corruption in public service.

QUICK READ

Police seek public help to find murder suspect

CHITRADURGA

The Chitradurga Kote Police Station has requested public assistance in locating Manjunath, wanted in connection with the murder of Bin Narasimhappa (52) at his Nehru Nagar home. The suspect, from Haranahalli Shanthinagar village, is about 5 feet tall, with a round face, average build, and oily red complexion. He has a past injury on his right leg and speaks Kannada. At the time of disappearance, he wore a lungi, panche, and shirt, with a towel around his head. Anyone with information is urged to call 9480803145.

Public grievance meeting scheduled in Mandya

MANDYA

Officials of the Karnataka Lokayukta Mandya Division will hold a public grievance meeting on April 8 from 11 am to 1:30 pm at the district taluk office premises. The program aims to receive complaints, suggestions, and reports related to corruption or delays in government work. DySP Sunil Kumar H.T., Police Inspector Bataraya Gowda B.P., Ravikumar M., and Lepaksha Murthy R.G. will participate. Citizens can bring grievances about officers or employees in government and semi-government offices. The Superintendent of Police emphasized public participation to ensure accountability and timely action against irregularities.

Commemoration of Artist P.R. Thippeswamy

vThe 26th commemoration of the late artist P.R. Thippeswamy was held at his memorial in Hartikote, Hiriyur taluk, where worship ceremonies were performed.

The event was attended by Kannada Book Authority President Dr. Manasa, State Information Commissioner Rudranna Hartikote, P.R. Thippeswamy Foundation Trust President Rajashekar Kadamba, Secretary Mahadevashetty, Treasurer Chandrashekariah, members H.R. Shankar and C. Chikkanna, along with local village leaders including Nagabhushan.

Mandya farmers gain from new water projects

In Tubinakere, Bommai honored for filling village ponds, supporting irrigation and agriculture using Lokpavani River water initiatives

MANDYA

An Agricultural University is being established in Mandya district, and officials plan to empower young farmers to achieve financial stability, said Agriculture and District In-charge Minister N. Chaluvarayaswamy.Speaking at a program in Tubinakere Gram Panchayat, he honored former Chief Minister and current MP Basavaraj Bommai for his role in filling ponds and lakes for villages including Elechakanahalli, Yelliyur, Urama Kasalagere, Ragimuddanahalli, Jakkanahalli, and Alugudu Kerekate. The initiative, part of the Elechakanahalli Ethaniravari Yojana, uses water diverted from the Lokpavani River to benefit farmers and livestock.MP Basavaraj Bommai highlight-

ed that while Mandya is rich in greenery, only 55% of its land is currently irrigated. "We will work to provide irrigation across the district and fill village ponds to support agriculture," he said. Bommai also noted that the gates installed at Krishnarajasagar reservoir have kept the water clean and ensured proper irrigation for farmland.The program was held under the divine presence of Mysore Paramapujya Jagadguru Suttur Veerasimhasanadheesh J.S.S. Peetha Chairman Shivaratri Desikendra Mahaswamiji, who praised the project's impact on farmers' economic development.Kengeri Vishwa Vokkaliga Mahasamsthan Mutt Chairman Sri Nischalanandanath Swamiji commended Bommai for addressing farmers' challenges and supporting rural development in Mandya.The minister emphasized that water availability has encouraged youth to stay in farming instead of migrating to cities, helping them build financially secure lives. Srirangapatna MLA A.B. Ramesh Bandisidde Gowda, former MLA Vijayalakshmi Bandisidde Gowda, former Deputy Chief Minister and current Bengaluru MLA C.N. Ashwath Narayan, Karnataka Sangha President Prof.

Mandya college to get ac room, ladies lounge

MANDYA

Mandya MLA P. Ravikumar has announced plans to develop the Women's Government College (Autonomous) with the construction of an air-conditioned room and a ladies' lounge costing Rs 1 crore. Work is expected to begin within ten days, he said during the Janapada Jatre-2026 program held as part of Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations.

Speaking at the event, Ravikumar said it is the responsibility of MLAs to ensure district development. He added that the college compound is in poor condition, and a proposal worth Rs 3 crore has been submitted for repairs. A well-equipped new gate for the college is also planned this year.The MLA promised Rs 3 lakh awards for students achieving the highest marks in the previous and current academic year, encouraging students to study hard and excel in life. He invited students and their parents to participate in a major cultural program on April 30 at the Mandya University campus, which will host over one lakh students.The celebrations included a colorful procession featuring puppetry, tamate, and nagari art forms. MLA Ravikumar arrived at the event in a traditional bullock cart, adding to the festive spirit.

MLA Ravikumar announced Rs 3 lakh awards for top students, invited them to April 30 Mandya University cultural program featuring folk arts and community participation

The program was attended by K. Gururaj Prabhu, Principal of the Women's College, renowned folk singer Umesh Shivara, and college staff members Danegowda, Gulle Arif, K. P. Ravi Kiran, Hemalatha SP, Anushree, and Kausalya S. The MLA urged students to actively participate in college programs and contribute to the institution's growth.

Kumaraswamy urged NGOs and departments to support HIV-positive individuals with treatment, government benefits, and reduce stigma for dignity and health

Officials urge better care for HIV patients

CHITRADURGA

Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy has issued strict instructions to officials and NGOs to help HIV/AIDS patients in the district access proper treatment and live without discrimination.He made the remarks while chairing a progress review meeting of the AIDS Control and Prevention Program at the District Collector's Office Hall on Tuesday.

Kumaraswamy expressed concern that many HIV-positive individuals in the district are hesitant to undergo treatment. He urged NGOs to actively reach out, counsel patients, and integrate them into regular care. "Every infected person's health must improve. Ensure they receive government support, health services, and regular treatment without interruption," he said.The Additional Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for all departments to coordinate to eliminate social stigma. HIV-positive people should live with dignity, equality, and access to benefits such as ration cards and monthly pensions. The goal is to identify infected individuals, provide timely treatment, and reduce viral load to prevent further spread.

He also stressed spreading awareness at the grassroots level about precautionary measures to protect others from infection.

Dr. C.O. Sudha, District Officer of the AIDS Control Unit, highlighted the importance of index testing—testing contacts of infected individuals. He noted challenges in achieving the ideal testing ratio and identified Molakalmuru and Challakere taluks as areas with higher treatment non-compliance and new infections.

Pamphlets were released during the meeting to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS.

Other officials present included District Health Officer Dr. G.P. Renuprasad, Taluk Health Officers Dr. B.V. Girish and Dr. Raghavendra, ART Medical Officer Dr. Roopashree, District Supervisor V. Ashoka, Technical Training Officer Shivaprasad, and representatives from Suchethana Network, Saukhya Community Organization, and Development Social Service Organization NGOs.

First hour crucial in saving accident victims: Dr. Ravindra

CHITRADURGA

The first hour after an accident or medical emergency is critical for saving lives, said District Hospital Surgeon Dr. Ravindra S.P. during the inauguration of a six-day "Comprehensive Emergency Care and Life Support" training program at Chitradurga Medical Sciences and Research Institute (CMC & RI).

The program, running from April 6 to 11, is organized jointly by Jiva Raksha, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, and Swami Vivekananda Yuva Chaluvali. It aims to provide practical training for students on emergency treatment methods to help save lives during accidents and critical situations.

Dr. Ravindra emphasized that students should learn these techniques thoroughly and be prepared to respond quickly in real emergencies. Dean of Basaveshwara Medical College, Dr. Rajesh, and Medical Superintendent Dr. Palakshappa highlighted the importance of such training for medical students.

Dean and Director of CMC & RI, Dr. B.Y. Yuvaraj, thanked the collaborating organizations and said the program would soon be extended to nursing staff, students, and other faculty members of the district hospital.

Dr. Nalina from Siddaganga Institute of Medical Sciences and Dr. Lavanya from Basaveshwara Medical College also attended the program. The inauguration began with the national anthem, followed by a welcome speech by Ashwini L.H., a prayer by student Himant, and a vote of thanks by student Manoj. The program concluded with the singing of the national anthem.

Officials stressed that emergency training is vital for equipping medical professionals with skills to act fast, making the first "golden hour" a life-saving period in any critical situation.

Accidental fire destroys farmer's millet bins

MAGADI

A devastating accidental fire near Hosapete village in Magadi destroyed two large millet bins belonging to farmer Narasimhaiah, wiping out his cattle fodder and causing a loss estimated at ₹80,000. The fire occurred after the farmer had recently completed threshing millet grown on his two acres of land.

Narasimhaiah had stored the dry millet in bins to ensure sufficient fodder for his cattle during the upcoming rainy season and summer. However, strong winds caused the fire to spread rapidly, and despite efforts by locals, the bins were completely burnt to ashes.

Speaking about the incident, Narasimhaiah expressed deep distress, saying, "We had grown our crops with great difficulty. Now all the fodder is lost, and we are worried about feeding our cattle in the coming days." He urged government and revenue officials to visit the site immediately and provide proper compensation.

Villagers quickly gathered at the site to console the farmer and called for prompt action by authorities. Village leaders and farmers demanded that officials inspect the site without delay and ensure maximum compensation as per government rules.

Kannada Literary gems to be launched on April 13

MAGADI

Under the "Kannada Harmony Bases" initiative, the Karnataka Government's Kannada Development Authority will launch 41 literary works, including Dr. D.C. Ramachandra's Natha Parampara, at the Vidhana Soudha Banquet Hall on April 13. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will inaugurate the program and unveil all the works. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Kannada Development Authority Chairman Purushottam Bilimale, Secretary Dr. Santosh Hanagal, ministers, and literary figures will also attend.Natha Parampara is the seventh book in Dr. Ramachandra's Saraswat Loka series. The work highlights the history of the Natha Panth, a devotional sect that has played a significant role in promoting India's culture globally. Dr. Ramachandra described the book as a humble effort to preserve the heritage and self-respect symbolized by the Nath Panth for future generations.

The program aims to nurture Kannada literature and culture by promoting valuable works and recognizing authors' contributions. Dr. Ramachandra's achievement has drawn widespread praise from readers, literary organizations, and local communities. The Magadi Taluk Kannada Sahitya Parishad, Doddasomanahalli Samriddhi Rural Development Organization, and Saprithi newspaper readers joined villagers and admirers in congratulating the author for his literary milestone.

The launch is expected to inspire writers and students while strengthening the appreciation of Kannada heritage. Officials noted that such initiatives play a key role in keeping the state's literary and cultural traditions alive, while encouraging the next generation to engage deeply with Kannada literature.

Folk arts celebrated as cultural roots in Pavagada

PAVAGADA

A vibrant folklore program in Gowdathimmanahalli village highlighted the deep connection between folk arts and rural life, with speakers stressing the need to preserve these traditions.Artist D. Nagaraju said that all forms of art in the region have their roots in folklore. He explained that songs once sung by farmers to ease their hard work in fields are part of this rich tradition. Folklore, he said, is present in every custom and ritual of village life.The event, titled Gadinad Folklore Geetagayana-2026, was organized by the Ekalavya Girijan Folklore Cultural Arts Association in association with the Kannada Culture Department under a tribal sub-project.

Nagaraju noted that Pavagada taluk is home to many unique folk arts, and efforts are already underway to document artists and their contributions.Kannada Sahitya Parishad Hobli president Ho.M. Nagaraju stressed the need to record and preserve these art forms, as many artists belong to the older generation. He warned that without proper efforts, these traditions may slowly disappear.

He also urged the government to establish training and research centers to encourage youth participation.

Various folk performances added color to the event, including Kolata, Bhajane, Somana Kunita, and puppet shows. Several artist groups presented songs, dances, and traditional music.

A Kalajatha procession was also held through the village streets, drawing attention from locals.

The program saw participation from many artists, leaders, and villagers, making it a memorable cultural gathering.

WATER BLOCKADE THREAT

Farmers warn massive protest over water allocation

MAGADI

Taluk Farmers' Association President Hosapalya Lokesh has warned of a major blockade on April 17 if Cauvery water meant for Magadi lakes is diverted to the Dabaspet industrial area.

Speaking at a press conference at the town's tourist center on Monday, Lokesh said the government has allocated Hemavati water to fill Magadi taluk lakes. However, despite opposition from Tumkur's elected representatives, the government has been supplying water to Dabaspet industrial area through large pipelines running across Magadi town. The work has reportedly damaged hundreds of trees and local roads.Lokesh demanded that Magadi lakes receive water first, followed by supply to the industrial area. He called for a meeting between officials and the farmers' association to clarify the quantity and rate of water being sent. Otherwise, he threatened to block the road at Hospet Circle and dismantle pipelines using JCBs.He highlighted the growing hardships in Magadi taluk, including drinking water shortages, insufficient electricity, malfunctioning motor pumps, stalled village water projects, and poor bus connectivity. Lokesh also stressed the importance of desilting Tippagondanahalli reservoir, which could improve water levels in the Magadi-Kunigal region. Despite over ₹100 crore being released for the project, it remains incomplete.A massive bike rally from Magadi to Tippagondanahalli reservoir is planned on April 28 by the Taluk Raitha Sangh, and police cooperation has been requested.Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Bamul President D.K. Suresh, MLA H.C. Balakrishna, and other leaders urged that Cauvery water should first meet the needs of Magadi residents. Congress and JDS leaders have appealed for calm while emphasizing the farmers' concerns.

QUICK READ

District summer camp applications open for children

Gadag

The Women and Child Development Department has invited applications for the 2026-27 district-level summer camp. The camp will include painting, handicrafts, clay art, group dance, classical music, karate, yoga, jewelry making, mehndi, rural sports, and other local activities. Children aged 5 to 16 can participate, with priority for government school students, rural and underprivileged children, children with disabilities, and those from economically backward families. Only 50–60 students will be selected. Applications must be submitted by April 18. For details, contact Ravi F. Umachagi, Program Coordinator, Women and Child Development Department.

Collect your Bhagyalakshmi bond maturity money soon

Chikkaballapura

Beneficiaries of the Bhagyalakshmi Scheme who are now 18 years old can claim the maturity amount of their bonds. This applies to those registered in 2006-07 and 2007-08 under the Women and Child Development Department. Applicants should visit their Taluk Child Development Scheme Officer's office with the Bhagyalakshmi Bond, birth certificate, bank passbook, school records, ration card, and Aadhaar card. Officials will process the applications and release the funds. For more details, contact the Deputy Director at 9632827508 or the respective Taluk officers listed by the department. Don't miss this opportunity.

Collector pushes faster land compensation for Yettinahole project

G. Prabhu urged prioritizing farmer compensation as Gouribidanur water project progresses, with pipelines completed and lake-filling underway

CHIKKABALLAPURA

District Collector G. Prabhu has directed officials to speed up compensation distribution to farmers whose lands have been acquired for the Yettinahole drinking water project.

Reviewing the progress at a meeting held in the District Collector's office, he said the compensation process must be treated as a top priority to avoid delays and ensure fairness to affected farmers.

He noted that the ambitious project, aimed at providing a permanent drinking water supply to the district, is progressing steadily. The Gouribidanur gravity feeder pipeline has reached 257.57 km, and about 81.6 km of pipeline work has been completed.

Officials said the project will help fill 86 lakes in Gauribidanur taluk. Compensation has already been awarded in 10 villages and is currently being distributed. In the remaining 25 villages, officials were instructed to speed up the award process without delay.

The Collector also stressed the need to accelerate land acquisition work related to the Srinivasapura gravity pipeline under the same project. He said there is a strong possibility that water could reach the district within a year. Before that, all related works must be completed on time. Prabhu urged engineers and officials to work carefully and ensure that no stage of the project faces unnecessary delays.

He also instructed the Water Corporation officials to be fully prepared to effectively use the available water once the project is completed. Senior engineers and officials attended the meeting and reviewed progress.

Congress rift deepens over leader absence controversy

AFZALPUR

At a Murum road foundation event, MLA absence disappointed Congress workers; allegations arose that KKRTC President Patil blocked attendance, despite Korabu funding 2.5 km road himself

Internal differences within the Congress party in Afzalpur have come to the surface after a controversy over MLA M.Y. Patil's absence from a road project event in Mashal village.

The foundation stone laying program for a Murum road was organized under the leadership of Congress Backward Classes State Vice President J.M. Korabu. The MLA was expected to attend, but his absence led to dissatisfaction among party workers.

There are allegations that KKRTC President Arunkumar Patil, who is the MLA's son, prevented him from attending the event. This claim has triggered anger among local Congress leaders.

When MLA M.Y. Patil later visited Korabu's residence, Korabu became emotional and expressed his disappointment. He said he had collected money from farmers without any government support to complete the 2.5 km road work and expected the MLA's presence as a sign of respect.

Korabu also stated that while he respects the MLA, he has lost trust in his son. In response, the MLA clarified that his absence was not intentional and was due to prior commitments. He assured that he had no intention of hurting anyone and promised to resolve the issue.

The incident has highlighted growing internal conflicts within the party. Recently, former minister Malikaiah Guttedar had also criticized Arunkumar Patil.

Some leaders have accused Arunkumar Patil of favoring his supporters while ignoring leaders from minority, Dalit, and backward communities, further deepening the divide.

HEALTH EDUCATION KEY TO STRONG HEALTHY SOCIETY: MOOGAPPA

CHITRADURGA

Taluk Health Education Officer B. Moogappa has emphasized that health education is vital for building a strong and healthy society. He spoke at a World Health Day program organized by the Health Department at the Government Industrial Training Institute near the stadium in Chitradurga.

Moogappa highlighted the importance of creating awareness among the youth, calling them the "wealth of the country." He urged young people to adopt healthier lifestyles, eat nutritious food, avoid junk food, reduce mobile phone use, and include activities like exercise, music, laughter, and meditation in daily life to improve well-being. He noted that World Health Day was first celebrated on April 7, 1950, and is observed annually to promote public awareness about health. This year's slogan is "Let's stand together with science for health."

Sub-District Health Education Officer J. Gouramma stressed the importance of personal hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and timely vaccination. She encouraged eligible girls aged 14 to 15 to take the HPV vaccine to prevent cervical cancer and to consume fresh food and safe drinking water.

P Sector Health Education Officer B. Janaki added that health should be celebrated every day, not just once a year. She encouraged the youth to donate blood after age 18, reduce meat intake, engage in household chores, and consume small grains to maintain fitness.

Principal Zarif Ullah said life without health is meaningless and urged students to adopt healthy habits and participate in extracurricular activities to promote health values to future generations.

Senior Health Inspector T. Srinivas Murthy, ASHA Mentor Tabitha, Training Officers Vanishree, Munir Sheikh, Shanthakumari, Satish B. Pradeep Kumar, Nagendra Gowda, Vani B.T., and students from the Industrial Training Institute attended the event.

41 Kannada Literary works to be launched on April 13

MAGADI

The Karnataka Government's Kannada Development Authority will launch 41 literary works, including Dr. D.C. Ramachandra's Natha Parampara, at Vidhana Soudha Banquet Hall on April 13 under the "Kannada Harmony Bases" scheme. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will inaugurate the program, with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Kannada Development Authority Chairman Purushottam Bilimale, Secretary Dr. Santosh Hanagal, ministers, and literary figures attending.

Natha Parampara is the seventh book in Dr. Ramachandra's Saraswat Loka series. The book explores the history of the Natha Panth, a devotional sect that contributed significantly to India's cultural heritage. Dr. Ramachandra said the work aims to pass on the rich history and values of the Nath Panth to future generations, describing it as "a small attempt to open the pages of the history of the Nath Panth, which is a symbol of the country's self-respect and culture."

Deputy Commissioner urges united fight against child labor

RAICHUR

Additional Deputy Commissioner Shivananda has urged all departments to work together to eliminate child labor, calling it a serious social problem. He spoke while presiding over the District Level Coordination Committee Meeting of the Labor Department at the New District Commissioner's Office Hall on Tuesday.

Shivananda emphasized that coordination between departments is essential to prevent child labor and juvenile work. Officers under the Child Labor and Juvenile Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act were instructed to actively participate in surprise inspections and raids. Children found working illegally must be protected, rehabilitated, and brought back into mainstream education.

He further stressed that labor department officials should regularly inspect hazardous workplaces such as factories, garages, hotels, and shops. Frequent inspections, he said, will deter employers from employing children. Families of rescued children should also be provided with social security benefits and support to strengthen their financial situation.

Shivananda highlighted the importance of enforcing the Child Marriage Prohibition Act, 2006. Girls under 18 and boys under 21 entering marriage are considered child marriages, and legal action must be taken. He called for public awareness programs to educate people on this issue.

Additional District Superintendent of Police Kumaraswamy assured full police cooperation in eradicating child labor. He instructed officers to report any challenges in registering cases immediately to ensure swift action.

Officials from various departments attended the meeting, including Raichur Assistant Commissioner Dr. Hampanna Sajjan, Labor Department District Officer Aarti, Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. Surendra Babu, Backward Classes Welfare Officer Sunitha, Assistant Director of Agriculture Pushpa, and Child Development Project Officer Manjunath. Shivananda concluded that proper enforcement of the Child Labor Prohibition Act and coordinated action by all departments can protect children, prevent exploitation, and promote their education and well-being.

Kalaburagi farmers urged to sell safflower

KALABURAGI

Farmers in Kalaburagi district have been urged to sell F.A.Q quality safflower under the state government's support price scheme for 2026. District Magistrate B. Fauzia Tarannum announced that farmers should visit their nearest Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society (PACS) or TAPCMS purchase centers to register and sell the safflower they have grown.

The registration of farmers is open until June 22, 2026, while the purchase process will continue until July 2, 2026. Payments for the safflower purchased will be made directly through the DBT portal. The Karnataka Government has appointed the Cooperative Oilseed Growers Federation Limited (KOF) as the state agency responsible for procuring quality safflower in the district.

Under the scheme, safflower is being purchased at Rs. 6,540 per quintal, with a limit of five quintals per acre and a maximum of 20 quintals per farmer. During the procurement process, farmers must register at the centers and provide UIDAI biometric verification.

The District Task Force, chaired by the Deputy Commissioner, has organized the procurement through 42 PACS/TAPCMS centers across Kalaburagi to ensure smooth implementation of the scheme. Farmers are encouraged to take advantage of the support price scheme to secure fair prices for their crops and improve their income.

For more details, farmers can contact the Karnataka Government Cooperative Oilseed Growers Federation Limited (KOF) at 9591812142. Authorities emphasized timely registration and participation to benefit fully from the government scheme.

IN THE HON'BLE COURT OF THE CIVIL JUDGE, AND JMFC. AT NELAMANGALA
C.Misc. No. 509/12025

PETITIONERS : 1. SMT. SOMAKKA D/o Late Thimmaiah Aged about 82 years, **2. SRI. HANUMAIAH** S/o Late Thimmaiah Aged about 80 years, **3. SMT. LAKSHMAMMA** D/o Late Thimmaiah Aged about 80 years, R/at Malonagathihalli village Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

VIS

RESPONDENT : The Thasildar (Registrar of Births and Deaths), Nelamangala Taluk, NELAMANGALA.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Whereas the petitioners above named has presented petition to this Hon'ble court under section 13(3) of Registration of Birth and Deaths Act 1969 for order direct the respondent authority to get enter the date of death of **petitioner's Father** by name **Thimmaiah S/o Late Thimmegowda** was died on 10.04.1972 at Malonagathihalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. The Hon'ble court has fixed on 18.05.26 for hearing of the petition and that if any person/s desire to oppose the said petition or claim or interest shall appear before the Hon'ble court in person or by pleader duly instructed at 11 AM Failing which the said application will be heard and determined as exparte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this the 02.04.26

By order of the court
Chief Ministerial Officer
Court of the Civil Judge
Junior Division and JMFC, Nelamangala

Advocate for Petitioner: SMT. GAYATHRI.A, Advocates, Next to Court Complex, 1st Floor, Vasu building, Rajiv Gandhi Nagara, Sondekoppa Road, Nelamangala Town, Bangalore Rural District

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C.Misc. No. 508/12025

PETITIONERS : 1. SMT. SOMAKKA D/o Late Thimmaiah Aged about 82 years, **2. SRI. HANUMAIAH** S/o Late Thimmaiah Aged about 80 years, **3. SMT. LAKSHMAMMA** D/o Late Thimmaiah Aged about 80 years, R/at Malonagathihalli village Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

VIS

RESPONDENT : The Thasildar (Registrar of Births and Deaths), Nelamangala Taluk, NELAMANGALA.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Whereas the petitioners above named has presented petition to this Hon'ble court under section 13(3) of Registration of Birth and Deaths Act 1969 for order direct the respondent authority to get enter the date of death of **petitioner's Mother** by name **HUCCHAMMA, Wife of late Thimmaiah,** was died on 08.07.2014 at Malonagathihalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. The Hon'ble court has fixed on 18.05.26 for hearing of the petition and that if any person's desire to oppose the said petition or claim or interest shall appear before the Hon'ble court in person or by pleader duly instructed at 11 AM Failing which the said application will be heard and determined as exparte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this the 02/04/26

By order of the court
Chief Ministerial Officer
Court of the Civil Judge
Junior Division and JMFC, Nelamangala

Advocate for Petitioner: SMT. GAYATHRI.A, Advocates, Next to Court Complex, 1st Floor, Vasu building, Rajiv Gandhi Nagara, Sondekoppa Road, Nelamangala Town, Bangalore Rural District

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DOCUMENT LOST

I Ramesh.G have lost my Original Sale Deed Documents situated in Mookandapalli village of Hosur taluk. Krishnagiri Dist., PR Doc No- 3713/2011 Sy No: 472/1C Plot No-100A (Area extend 1200 Sqft) in Annainagar (SRO Hosur) while some Personal work in Budikote (K.G.F). Case Registered No. 2035332/2026 SAKALA No. PO 012S260000276 AFF NO -IN-KA- 69154831873132Y

Finder Please Contact or Return to this below Address

RAMESH .G

Res at No.43, Anadhivadi, Hosur, Cattle farm, Krishnagiri Phone: 7708282345

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PUTTA NAIK**, S/o, Baburi Naik, resident of No. 4, 4th Cross, Opp. Janya Gardenia Apartments, Kaveri Nagar, R.T.Nagar, Bengaluru-560032, have changed my Minor Son's name from **GAGAN** to **SARTHAK P**, vide affidavit dated: 07.04.2026, before Notary PRASAD SHETTY.K.B, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client Mrs.N.Vijaya Lakshmi, D/o. Mr.Natarajan, owner of the Residential apartment bearing No. 101 in the first floor comprised in Old Survey No's and T.S. No's. 1/2, 23, 24, 4/2, situated at Arumbakkam Village, Egmore Nungambakkam Taluk, measuring with an built up area of 1172 Sq.ft with 484 Sq.ft of Undivided share of land. Our Client misplaced the original Title Deed Viz 1.Original Sale Deed registered as Doc. No. 629/2016 dated 05.01.2006 registered at SRO Kodambakkam District, 2.Original Construction Agreement registered as Doc No. 628/2016 dated 05.01.2016 registered in SRO Kodambakkam District. And also my client logged a complaint in the Police Unit: Bengaluru City via Lost Report No. 2126433/2026 Date: 26/03/2026. Hence It is informed to the general public that anyone who is/are in possession of the said documents are directed/requested to handover the same to the undersigned within five days from the date of publication of the notice. It is further informed that any body tries to create any encumbrance on the said property by misusing the misplaced documents, the same would not have any legal sanctity and are punishable under law.

G.Dineshkumar, B.A. B.L., Advocate.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHUBHA C A W/o B R DINESH, R/o Flat No 004, Ground Floor, JC Heights, 5th Main Road, Deshabandhu Nagar, Doddabommasandra, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560097, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHUBHA DINESH.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KUMAR K S/o LATE KONAPPA R/o Kencharlahalli Village, Kencharlahalli, Chintamani, Chikkaballapur, Karnataka-563125, have changed the name of my minor son CHARAN KUMAR K aged 15 years and he shall hereafter be known as ABHISHEK KUMAR K.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANU CHAUDHARI (old name), a resident of NO 4A, 4th floor, Pranav Radha Krishna Tranquil Apartment, 67 Later no 167 and 168, Krishna Rajendra Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560004, KARNATAKA INDIA, have changed my name to ANU JAIN (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 07-04-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, No. 14659052F, Rank Ex HMT, Name Biram Saheb, S/o D. Nanne Saheb, residing at Village Rajeev Nagar, Post Udayagiri, Tehsil, Dist Mysuru, Karnataka-570019, have changed my daughter name from **S MADEEHA** to **SAYED MADEEHA** vide affidavit sworn before Notary C P Padma, Mysuru, dated 06-04-2026

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DEEPAK KAPOOR S/o K L KAPOOR R/o C213, Brigade Millennium, JP Nagar, 7th Phase, Bangalore South, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560078, have changed the name of my minor son RAAGHAV KAPOOR aged 9 years and he shall hereafter be known as RANSH KAPOOR.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, GIRIJA R D/o RAJU, R/o Thoredoddi, Ittamadu, Ittmadu, Bengaluru South, Karnataka562109, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANUPAMA R.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, M ANCHAL JAIN (old name), a resident of NO 19/2, 3RD FLOOR, 3RD CROSS RANGA RAO ROAD, SHANKARPURAM, BENGALURU - 560004, KARNATAKA INDIA, have changed my name to ANCHAL JAIN (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 07-04-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S COLLEGE NSS CAMP CONCLUDES SUCCESSFULLY

HUNSUR

The special annual National Service Scheme (NSS) camp of Government Women's College, Hunsur, concluded with a closing ceremony attended by retired principal Puttashetty, Principal Professor S. Manju, Dr. Suresh Lakshmayya, Head Teacher Indira, and journalist Cheluvaraj.

Addressing the program, Dr. Suresh M.B. emphasized that students can achieve their true goals by actively participating in NSS from the taluk to national level. He encouraged students to combine extracurricular activities with their studies to better understand society. Program Officer Dr. K.P. Prasanna outlined the seven-day schedule, work activities, and responsibilities carried out during the camp.

Principal Professor S. Manju highlighted the cooperation of village leaders and explained the importance of building strong relationships between parents, teachers, and the community. The event included competitions, drama performances, flag hoisting, and the distribution of prizes and mementos to outstanding students. Village leaders, camp officers, and residents participated, making the ceremony a memorable conclusion to the week-long Bunnykuppe village camp.

QUICK READ

Phoolka opposes govt move to amend Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Act

NEW DELHI

Senior advocate and BJP leader HS Phoolka on Tuesday criticised the Punjab government's proposed amendments to the Jagat Jyot Shri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Act, 2008, calling it a serious threat to Sikh religious sentiments and urging the community to oppose the move. Phoolka expressed concern over the Punjab government's decision to amend the 2008 Act without consulting the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), the apex body responsible for managing Sikh gurdwaras. He termed the move a massive attack on the Sikh religion and said any changes related to religious matters must involve due consultation with representative institutions.

Bail granted to Sukesh Chandrashekhar in money laundering case

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has granted bail to alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar in a money laundering case, citing the fundamental right to personal liberty and the need for a speedy trial as key grounds for the decision. In its order, the court observed that prolonged incarceration without the likelihood of an early conclusion of trial violates constitutional protections. Emphasising the importance of personal liberty, the court noted that an accused cannot be kept in custody indefinitely when the judicial process is expected to take considerable time. The bail was granted under Section 479 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), which provides for the release of an accused after completing half of the maximum prescribed sentence in custody.

Rahul hails Kerala nurses for their skill, kindness

LS LEADER OF OPPOSITION DESCRIBED THEM AS THE BACKBONE OF INDIA'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, WHILE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGING THE CHALLENGES THEY FACE IN THEIR PROFESSION

NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday lauded nurses from Kerala, describing them as the backbone of India's healthcare system, while also acknowledging the challenges they face in their profession.

Taking to the social media platform X, Rahul Gandhi shared his appreciation for the dedication and compassion shown by nurses, particularly those from Kerala.

He stated that their selflessness and empathy play a crucial role in ensuring that families feel secure when entrusting their loved ones to medical care.

The remarks were accompanied by a video interaction in which Gandhi engaged directly with a group of nurses. During the discussion, participants spoke candidly about the realities of working in India's healthcare system, shedding light on systemic issues such as heavy workloads, staff shortages, and limited opportunities for career growth.

One nurse highlighted the challenge of balancing patient care with time constraints, noting that the demanding nature of the job often leaves little room for meaningful interaction with patients. Despite their desire to provide emotional support, nurses said they are frequently overwhelmed by the sheer number of cases they must handle daily.

The conversation also touched upon the growing trend of nurses seeking employment abroad. While many expressed a preference to remain in India, they acknowledged that better working conditions and structured systems in countries like the United Kingdom often serve as strong incentives. Nurses pointed out that consistent shift structures and hourly pay models abroad offer greater financial stability compared to India's fragmented schedules.

Another major concern raised was the lack of clear career progression pathways within India. Nurses explained that advancing in the profession typically requires higher academic qualifications, such as postgraduate degrees, which can be both time-consuming and financially challenging.

Participants also drew attention to the acute shortage of healthcare personnel in the country. In some cases, they revealed, as many as 20 nurses are required to care for nearly 100 patients, highlighting the immense pressure on existing staff.

Reflecting on their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic, nurses recounted stepping beyond their traditional roles during emergencies. Some even performed critical medical procedures under extreme circumstances, underscoring their commitment during times of crisis.

ODISHA COPS LAUNCH MASSIVE RAID ON CATTLE MAFIA

BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Police on Tuesday launched a large-scale crackdown on illegal cattle smuggling, carrying out simultaneous raids at multiple locations across Balasore, Bhadrak, and Mayurbhanj districts, officials said.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (Eastern Range), Balasore, Pinak Mishra informed the media that search operations were conducted at around 32 locations linked to individuals suspected of involvement in organised cattle transportation networks.

These locations had been identified through extensive investigations into cases reported in recent years.

The operation involved a significant deployment of personnel, including 18 platoons of police forces, eight Additional Superintendents of Police, 17 Deputy Superintendents of Police, 25 inspectors, and 67 Sub-Inspector and Assistant Sub-Inspector-level officers. The coordinated raids were carried out simultaneously across the three districts to dismantle what officials described as an entrenched and organised illegal trade.

According to Mishra, the action was based on intelligence inputs gathered from a detailed review of multiple cases of illegal cattle transportation in the region. During the raids, police seized more than Rs 50 lakh in cash, along with substantial quantities of gold and silver ornaments. Several vehicles allegedly used in the transportation of cattle were also confiscated.

The police are carrying out simultaneous raids at multiple locations across Balasore, Bhadrak, and Mayurbhanj districts to crack large-scale cattle smuggling network.

In a significant development, the police recovered firearms and other dangerous weapons from the targeted locations, indicating that the smuggling operations were backed by organised criminal networks. Officials emphasized that the presence of weapons highlighted the seriousness and scale of the illegal activities.

Reiterating the department's stance, Mishra stated that the police are adopting a zero-tolerance approach towards illegal cattle smuggling.

He added that the operation was carried out under directives from the state government and the Director General of Police to curb the growing menace.

As part of the crackdown, authorities detained several suspects, including six individuals in Bhadrak district and four each in Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts. Further investigations are underway to identify additional links and dismantle the wider network.

The intensified action comes amid a sharp rise in such cases in recent years. Official data indicates that 473 cases of illegal cattle transportation were registered in 2023, which increased to 533 in 2024 and surged to 872 in 2025, reflecting the growing scale of the issue and prompting stricter enforcement measures.

NHRC seeks report on whistleblowers' harassment

NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the Delhi Police, the Union Health Ministry, and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), seeking an Action Taken Report within two weeks over allegations of harassment of whistleblowers linked to a recruitment inquiry.

Taking cognisance of the complaint under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, a Bench headed by NHRC member Priyank Kanoongo observed that the allegations prima facie suggest violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. These include the right to freedom of speech and expression, as well as the right to dignity and privacy.

According to the complaint, the whistleblowers had raised concerns about alleged irregularities and corruption in the recruitment process within FSSAI. It was claimed that certain individuals had secured jobs using fraudulent documents. The complainants maintained that they had shared findings of an internal committee report in good faith, without adding any personal allegations.

However, they alleged that instead of addressing the concerns, authorities initiated disproportionate action against them, including the registration of a First Information Report at I.P. Estate Police Station in Central Delhi. The complainants argued that such action violated their fundamental rights under Articles 19(1)(a) and 21 of the Constitution, which guarantee freedom of expression and protection of life and personal liberty.

They further claimed that defamatory content targeting them was circulated on social media platforms, allegedly aimed at damaging their reputation. Additionally, concerns were raised about the possible unauthorised access or leakage of confidential information from official sources.

Observing the seriousness of the allegations, the NHRC directed the concerned authorities to conduct a detailed inquiry into the matter.

Tarun Chugh attacks HP govt, predicts BJP return

MANDI

Tarun Chugh, National General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), on Tuesday launched a strong attack on the Congress government in Himachal Pradesh, claiming its countdown has begun and predicting a BJP comeback within the next 18 months.

Addressing the party's state executive committee meeting, Chugh asserted that the Congress government would soon be voted out of power due to its alleged failure to deliver on promises made during the Assembly elections. He expressed confidence that the BJP would form the next government in the state with the support of the people.

Chugh took aim at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, criticising his so-called Thaka-Thak model and claiming it had failed to bring any tangible benefits to Himachal Pradesh. He alleged that the commitments made during the election campaign remain unfulfilled, while citizens are facing growing difficulties. According to Chugh, the Congress government's tenure has negatively impacted the state's development trajectory.

Government of Karnataka
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajanagara Division, Chamarajanagara
E-mail: eecnr@kpwd.gov.in/ pwdeechngr@gmail.com Phone/Fax: 08226-295048

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal only)
H(Two Cover System: Section-1-Technical Bid and Section-2-Financial Bid)
Short Term Tender Notification No 01/2026-27 Dated: 04.04.2026

Item rate tenders are invited through Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal only on behalf of Governer of Karnataka from Eligible registered civil Contractor in KPWD in Standard Bid document **KW-2** & **KW-3** form The Total no of works is 2, **H/A :- 5054-80-190-0-01-132 KRIDL Works** Minimum estimated cost is Rs, 50.00 lakhs, maximum estimated cost is Rs, 85.00 lakhs, Further changes in this Notification will be Published in Kppp.karnataka.gov.in Only. Date of events as follows:

1	Date and Time for downloading the tender document from the **Kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal	From 06.04.2026 to 16.04.2026 after 16.30 Hrs
2	Pre-Bid Meeting Date	09.04.2026 in Division Office Meeting Hall at 11.00 AM
3	downloading the tender document from the Last Date and Time	16.04.2026 upto 16.30 Hrs
4	Date & Time for opening of Technical bid	17.04.2026 after 16.30 Hrs
5	Date & Time for opening of Financial bid	21.04.2026 after 16.30 Hrs

More information can be had from the web site: **https://www.Kppp.karnataka.gov.in** & Any other details required can be obtained from office of the under signed during office hours.

Executive Engineer,
PWD Division,
Chamarajanagar

No: DIPR: CHANAGAR:17:2026-27

ಕಂದಾಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ದಂಡಾಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ,
"ರಜತಾದ್ರಿ" ಮಣಿಪಾಲ, ಉಡುಪಿ– 576104
Email: udupidc@gmail.com
ನ.ಂ. ಇಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಸಿಆರ್ 66/2026 ಇ–260791 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06–04–2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕಂದಾಯ ಘಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಬಾಹ್ಯ ಮೂಲದಿಂದ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಒದಗಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಅಂಗೀಕೃತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ (KTPP) ಆಕ್ಟ್– 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದೆ.ಆಸಕ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾರರು ಅನುಬಂಧ 1 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ, ತಮ್ಮ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸೇವಾ ವೆಚ್ಚದ ಕು–ರಿತು ದರಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08–04–2026 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14–04–2026ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.00 ಘಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಉಡುಪಿಯ ಆಡಳಿತ ಶಾಖೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

1) ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08–04–2026 ರಿಂದ 14–04–2026 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.00 ಘಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. 2) ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14–04–2026 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.00 ಘಂಟೆ 3) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15–04–2026 ರಂದು ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 3.00 ಘಂಟೆ 4) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:17–04–2026 ರಂದು ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 3.00 ಘಂಟೆ 5) ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ 2,50,000.00

ಸಹಿ/– (ಅಬೀದ್ ಗದ್ಯಾಳ್)
ಅಪರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಉಡುಪಿ

Town Municipal Council, Hosadurga,
Chitradurga District.
ಫೋನ್ ನಂ. 08199–230221 E- ail:tmchosadurga@yahoo.com
Webist: hosadurgatown.gov.in
Sl No: TS/C.R-08/2025-26/10/2 Date 06.04.2026

e-Procurement Tender Notification
(Tender invited subject to Standard Tender Document Rules)

On the behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Item wise tenders are invited through Karnataka Public Procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement (Amendment) Act 2016 from eligible registered Contractor for below mentioned works sanctioned under CMIDP grant of Hosadurga TMC. Tenders can be downloaded from KPP Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) filled and uploaded up to 5.00 PM 29.04.2026. For further information visit the below mentioned websites www.hosadurgatown.mrc.gov.in and https:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in and is displayed on the Notice Board of the Office and further information can be obtained from the technical section during office hours.

Indent No. DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT55438/Call-2
Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) (Rupees in Lakhs):- 97,37,873-00 EMD (in Rupees):- 194760-00.
Period:- 9 Months (Including Monsoon season)

Sd/ Administrator, TMC, Hosadurga.
Sd/-Chief Officer, Town Municipal Council, Hosadurga
DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/12/2026-27

ಸಮಗ್ರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ
"ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಭವಿಷ್ಯದ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ" 2025–26
ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಆಡಳಿತ) ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಯೋಜನಾ ಸಮನ್ವಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ,ಸಮಗ್ರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ–ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ.
ssa16chikkaballapur@gmail.com, Phone No : 08156-273395
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಸಶಿಕ/ಸಪ್ರೌಶಾವಿಸಾಖ/01/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.04.2026

ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್–2 ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮಾನ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ರವರ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ :KLLADP/CR/18/2021-22, ದಿನಾಂಕ : 30.12.2024& 27–03–2026ರಲ್ಲಿ ಆದೇಶಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಶಾಸಕರ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ವಿಶೇಷ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗೊಂಡಿರುವ 24 ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ (ಶಾಲೆಗಳ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಲಗತ್ತಿಸಿದೆ) ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಪ್ರಯೋಗಾಲಯಗಳು **(Stem Tinkering Lab, Discovery Lab & Makers Space Lab)** ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಒಟ್ಟು ರೂ 300.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂಗಳಿಗೆ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್–2 ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ. **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್–2 ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು **ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ 16.04.2026 ಸಮಯ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆ. ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಹೆಸರು: ಬಾಗೇಪಲ್ಲಿ– ಶಾಲೆಯ ಹೆಸರು ಮತ್ತು ವಿಳಾಸ:** (1) ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ಬಾಗೇಪಲ್ಲಿ (2) ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ಘಟಂವಾರಿಪಲ್ಲಿ (3) ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ಗುಳೂರು (4) ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ಮಿಟ್ಟೇಮರಿ. **ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಹೆಸರು: ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ – ಶಾಲೆಯ ಹೆಸರು ಮತ್ತು ವಿಳಾಸ:** (5) ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ಆವಲಗುರ್ಕಿ (6) ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ಬಿ.ಬಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ (7) ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ಅಂಗರೇಖಿನಹಳ್ಳಿ (8) ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ಪೆರೇಸಂದ್ರ (9) ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ರೆಡ್ಡಿಗೊಲ್ಲವಾರಹಳ್ಳಿ (10) ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ಗಿಡ್ನಹಳ್ಳಿ. **ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಹೆಸರು: ಚಿಂತಾಮಣಿ – ಶಾಲೆಯ ಹೆಸರು ಮತ್ತು ವಿಳಾಸ:** (11) ನೂತನ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ಚಿಂತಾಮಣಿ (12) ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ಸಂತೇಕಲ್ಲಹಳ್ಳಿ (13) ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ದೊಡ್ಡಗಂಜೂರು (14) ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ಬಟ್ಲಹಳ್ಳಿ. **ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಹೆಸರು: ಗೌರಿಬಿದನೂರು – ಶಾಲೆಯ ಹೆಸರು ಮತ್ತು ವಿಳಾಸ:** (15) ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ಅಲಕಾಪುರ (16) ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಬಾಲಕಿಯರ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ಕೋಟೆ, ಗೌರಿಬಿದನೂರು (17) ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಇ.ಎ. ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ಗೌರಿಬಿದನೂರು (18) ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ಮಂಚೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ. **ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಹೆಸರು: ಗುಡಿಬಂಡೆ – ಶಾಲೆಯ ಹೆಸರು ಮತ್ತು ವಿಳಾಸ:** (19) ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ಸೋಮೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ (20) ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ಎಲ್ಲೋಡು. **ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಹೆಸರು: ಶಿಡ್ಲಘಟ್ಟ – ಶಾಲೆಯ ಹೆಸರು ಮತ್ತು ವಿಳಾಸ:** (21) ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ಶಿಡ್ಲಘಟ್ಟ (22) ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ಚೀಮಂಗಲ (23) ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ಮೇಲೂರು (24) ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ಈ ತಿಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ

ಸಹಿ/– (ವಿ.ರಮೇಶ್), ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಆಡಳಿತ) ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಯೋಜನಾ ಸಮನ್ವಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಸಮಗ್ರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ–ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:16/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ
ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–562110
ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 080–27682221, Email : itstaff_ulb_devanahalli@yahoo.co.in
ನಂ.ದೇಪು/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/ಸಿಆರ್/03/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:06.04.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್(ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್) ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)
(ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ KW-1&2 ರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಂತೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ)

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಷಯ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪುರಸಭಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪುರಸಭಾ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಪೈಪ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಪೇವರ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಡಾಂಬರ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಚರಂಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಪೇವರ್ಸ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಕರ್ಬ್‌ಸ್ಟೋನ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಹೈಮಾಸ್ಟ್ ದೀಪ ಅಳವಡಿಸುವುದು, ಶೆಡ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಸೋಲಾರ್ ಅಳವಡಿಸುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ : **329.63 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು 22** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಏಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತೆಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.

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ಸಹಿ/– ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ. ದುರ್ಗಾಶ್ರೀ
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QUICK READ

Bribery: CBI court sentences ex-railway official to 5-yr RI

JAIPUR

A special CBI court here has sentenced former Western Central Railway employee Jalandhar Yogi, posted in Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur district, to five years of rigorous imprisonment in a bribery case, officials said on Tuesday. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 on the accused, holding him guilty of demanding and accepting illegal gratification from a complainant in exchange for clearing a pending bill. According to the Central Bureau of Investigation, the case was registered on June 16, 2020, following allegations that Yogi had demanded a bribe of Rs 11,500 to process and clear the final bill for work completed by the complainant. After verifying the complaint, the agency laid a trap and caught the accused red-handed while accepting Rs 10,000 as a bribe.

TN emerges as key battlefield as DMK seeks to defend stronghold

CHENNAI

As Tamil Nadu heads toward a crucial Assembly election, the state's northern districts are once again in sharp focus, emerging as a decisive region that could significantly influence the overall outcome. The belt, stretching from Cuddalore to Tiruvannamalai, has traditionally played a pivotal role in shaping political fortunes in the state. The DMK enters the contest with a clear structural advantage in the region, having built a strong electoral base over successive elections. The party currently holds a substantial number of seats here, reflecting its deep-rooted presence and sustained voter support across constituencies.

Gehlot slams BJP govt over medical university delay

JAIPUR

Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the BJP-led state government over the sluggish construction of the Marwar Medical University, alleging that the BJP administration has failed to protect the aspirations of the region. In the 16th chapter of his Intezaar Shastra digital series, the veteran Congress leader stated that the Rs 500 crore project has fallen victim to official apathy. This is not just negligence, but a planned step-motherly treatment towards Marwar, Gehlot said, adding that the March 31, 2027, completion deadline now appears to be merely a decoration on paper.

BJP slams Mallikarjun Kharge over 'illiterate' remark, seeks apology

Kharge had said the people of the state were 'educated and clever' and cannot be misled, unlike those who were 'illiterate' in Gujarat and some other places.

NEW DELHI

A political controversy erupted on Tuesday after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) strongly criticized Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge for his alleged derogatory remarks about Gujaratis and North Indians, as well as his sharp criticism of the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

Addressing a press conference, senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament Ravi Shankar Prasad launched a strong attack on Kharge, accusing him of attempting to malign the legacy of prominent Gujarati figures and disrespecting patriotic institutions.

He asserted that Kharge's statements were unbecoming of a national party president and called for his immediate resignation on moral and ethical grounds.

The controversy stems from Kharge's remarks in which he allegedly referred to Gujaratis as illiterates and described the BJP and the RSS as poisonous snakes that should be crushed.

These comments triggered a sharp backlash from the BJP, which accused the Congress leadership of engaging in divisive and inflammatory rhetoric.

Prasad questioned the basis of Kharge's remarks by invoking some of India's most respected leaders and personalities from Gujarat, including Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Morarji Desai, and Vikram Sarabhai. He asked whether these iconic figures could also be considered illiterate, calling the statement deeply offensive to the people of Gujarat.

Highlighting the state's progress, Prasad pointed out that Gujarat has a literacy rate of approximately 82 percent, among the highest in the country, and has consistently improved over the years.

He demanded that Kharge issue a public apology to the nation for his remarks.

The BJP leader also called upon Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi to clarify their stance on Kharge's statements, urging them to either support or distance themselves from his comments.

Further intensifying his criticism, Prasad accused Kharge of attempting to divide the country by insulting not only Gujaratis but also residents of northern states such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

He also alleged that Kharge's remarks comparing the BJP and RSS to poisonous snakes could incite communal tensions and polarize communities.

The row has added a fresh layer of political friction, with both parties exchanging sharp rhetoric as the electoral battle gains momentum.

South Africa sees upcoming summit as platform to bolster economic ties

NEW DELHI

South Africa's High Commissioner to India, Professor Anil Sooklal, sees the upcoming India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) as an opportunity to strengthen his country's economic ties with India across the pharmaceutical, green energy, IT, and agricultural sectors.The summit aims to see how relations between the African continent and India can be intensified, expanded and maximised, Sooklal said in an interview published in Independent Online (IOL) news portal. He pointed out that India is a pharmaceutical hub of the world, with many of its companies operating extensively across the African continent, including South Africa.I believe the decision by the African Union to have South Africa as the pharmaceutical hub of the African continent provides us with an opportunity to partner with India in this sector, he observed. He said that green energy was another potential area for cooperation, as India, along with France, founded the International Solar Alliance. The country has taken major strides in solar, wind, and hydrogen as part of its green energy campaign, and these were areas on which South Africa and the African continent are also focusing.

They (India) are also on a massive green energy drive. India, with France, founded the International Solar Alliance. High focus on solar energy, wind energy, and green hydrogen, Sooklal said.

We are already partnering with India on the energy front, but I believe we can do much more, especially on green energy, he remarked.

On the industrial front, Sooklal noted that India's Mahindra& Mahindra has an assembly plant in South Africa, but his government is keen that the Indian tractor maker sets up a manufacturing plant in the country.

Maha cabinet approves new dept of electronics, IT and AI

MUMBAI

In a significant move aligned with the 'Viksit India 2047' vision, the Maharashtra Cabinet led by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday approved the creation of a dedicated department for Electronics, Information Technology, and Artificial Intelligence.

The Cabinet approved the transformation of the existing Directorate of Information Technology into the Directorate of Electronics, IT, and AI, marking a major administrative upgrade.

Alongside this, a new IT cadre will be established, comprising permanent positions across ministerial departments, the Commissioner's office, and district-level offices. This move is expected to streamline governance and enhance the implementation of digital initiatives across Maharashtra.

The decision comes shortly after Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis highlighted in the state legislature that Maharashtra is emerging as a frontrunner in the field of artificial intelligence startups.He emphasized that the government is actively promoting fintech and AI-based enterprises as part of its broader ambition to transform the state into a trillion-dollar economy. According to him, technology will play a central role in driving this economic transformation, with a strong focus on innovation and entrepreneurship.

New IT-AI dept, Mahavitaran restructuring, geospatial push and World Bank-backed disaster programme among key decisions taken by the Cabinet.

In addition to the IT and AI push, the Cabinet also approved financial restructuring measures for Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (Mahavitaran). Government-backed bonds worth Rs 32,679 crore will be issued in the capital market to manage state-guaranteed loans. The Cabinet further cleared plans for the demerger of the company's agricultural distribution business and its eventual listing on the stock market.

The Cabinet also approved the establishment of the Maharashtra Geotechnology Application Centre (MahaGeo-Tech), which will focus on leveraging geospatial technology to improve governance, research, and innovation. The centre will support educational and professional development programs while enhancing administrative efficiency.

Raut slams Parth Pawar, alleges 'threat tactics' by BJP

MUMBAI

The political atmosphere in Maharashtra has intensified following the filing of nomination papers by Sunetra Pawar for the Baramati bypoll. The decision by Congress to field a candidate against her has sparked a war of words between the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and its allies, with Shiv Sena(UBT) MP Sanjay Raut firmly backing Congress' right to contest.

Responding to NCP MP Parth Pawar's claim that Congress' decision to contest marks the beginning of its downfall in Maharashtra, Sanjay Raut at the press conference aligned himself with the stance taken by veteran leader Sharad Pawar. I agree with Sharad Pawar. Congress is a national party and has every right to contest the election, he stated. He pointed out the irony in Parth Pawar's criticism, reminding him of recent history. Parth's father, Ajit Pawar, contested the Pimpri-Chinchwad by-election following the death of Laxman Jagtap, and he did so with the help of Congress. If they could seek help then, why shouldn't Congress contest now? he asked.

Sharad Pawar had previously snubbed Parth's comments, stating that expressing views on major political decisions requires a level of maturity.

The controversy extended beyond Baramati to the Rahuri constituency, where former NCP(SP) Minister Prajakt Tanpure withdrew his candidacy. While some claimed Tanpure was persuaded to step down, Raut alleged a darker reality. No one 'persuades' in today's politics; they threaten, Raut charged. He questioned the involvement of BJP leaders Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil and Ravindra Chavan. Are they great revolutionaries or freedom fighters?

'Cong-CPI-M exploiting Sabarimala issue for electoral gains'

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala BJP President Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Tuesday accused the CPI-M and the Congress of exploiting the sensitive Sabarimala temple issue for electoral gains ahead of the Assembly elections scheduled for April 9.

Chandrasekhar alleged that both the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Congress have repeatedly used the issue of women's entry into the Sabarimala Temple as an emotional tool to influence voters. He described the controversy as a classic example of how political parties attempted to interfere with long-standing religious traditions, particularly during the 2018 episode when the temple entry issue triggered widespread protests.

He claimed that when the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and many devotees opposed the move, thousands of protestors were allegedly jailed and faced legal action. According to him, the Congress maintained silence at the time and indirectly supported the CPI-M government's stand on allowing women of all age groups into the temple, following a landmark court ruling.

The BJP leader further alleged that both parties have now changed their stance ahead of elections. He specifically criticized Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of attempting to present a different position on the issue during the campaign period.

Chandrasekhar also raised allegations related to a gold theft case linked to Sabarimala, claiming that individuals involved were seen in photographs with Congress leader Sonia Gandhi and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. .

He questioned the credibility of both parties in raising the issue now, suggesting that their intentions were politically motivated.

Thunderstorms, lightning, hail likely in parts of MP

BHOPAL

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), Meteorological Centre Bhopal, on Tuesday issued a warning for thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds at isolated places across several districts of Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday.

According to the daily weather bulletin, rainfall occurred at isolated places in Gwalior and Jabalpur divisions during the last 24 hours, while the rest of the state remained largely dry.

Maximum temperatures remained below normal by 3.2 degrees Celsius to 3.6 degrees C in most divisions, with the highest maximum temperature recorded at 37.8 degrees C in Narmadapuram. The lowest minimum temperature was 14.2 segrees C in Pachmarhi (Narmadapuram).

Rainfall or thundershowers with lightning are likely at isolated places in districts including Vidisha, Rajgarh, Ratlam, Agar, Mandsaur, Neemuch, Guna, Ashoknagar, Shivpuri, Gwalior, Datia, Bhind, Morena, Sheopur, Singrauli, Sidhi, Rewa, Mauganj, Satna, Panna, Damoh, Sagar, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, and Niwari. The remaining districts of the state are likely to remain dry.

In Gwalior, Datia, Bhind, and Morena, there is also a possibility of a hailstorm along with thunderstorm, lightning, and strong gusty winds. A senior IMD official stated, Isolated thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds are likely today. Hail may occur in some northern and western districts. People should avoid going out during stormy weather and take necessary precautions.Stay indoors during thunderstorms, keep windows and doors closed, and avoid unnecessary travel. They also advised not to take shelter under trees or near electric poles, unplug electrical devices, and stay away from metallic objects. Farmers are advised to avoid irrigation, spraying of fertilizers or pesticides, and provide support to vegetable crops.

Keep livestock in safe shelters, ensure proper drainage in fields, and cover harvested produce, they said.

SET TO UNSETTLE TMC?

Modi to address multiple rallies as BJP steps up Bengal campaign

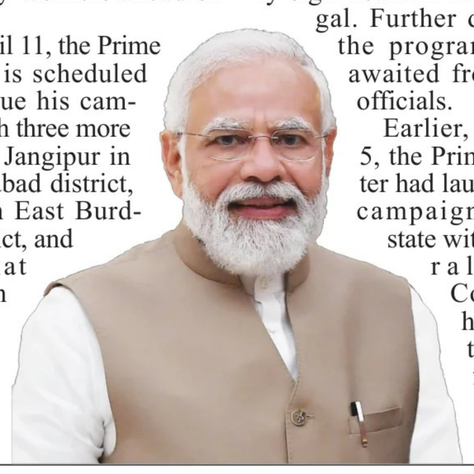
KOLKATA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to intensify his election campaign in West Bengal this week by participating in a series of rallies and roadshows ahead of the state's crucial two-phase Assembly elections scheduled later this month.

According to party sources, the Prime Minister is likely to attend seven campaign programmes between April 9 and April 12 across several districts in West Bengal. The campaign push is being seen as a key effort by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to strengthen its position in the state.

As per the tentative schedule, on April 9, Modi may address three major rallies in Asansol in West Burdwan district, Suri in Birbhum district, and Haldia in East Midnapore district. These back-to-back events are expected to draw large crowds and energize party workers ahead of polling.

On April 11, the Prime Minister is scheduled to continue his campaign with three more rallies in Jangipur in Murshidabad district, Katwa in East Burdwan district, and Balurghat in South Dinajpur district. Later that day, he is expected to stay overnight in Siliguri, located in the Darjeeling district.



The following day, April 12, Modi is likely to hold a roadshow in Siliguri town, which is considered politically significant in North Bengal. Further details of the programme are awaited from party officials.

Earlier, on April 5, the Prime Minister had launched his campaign in the state with a major rally in Cooch Behar, setting the tone for an aggressive election strategy. According to party insiders, Modi is expected to participate in a total of 14 campaign events, including rallies and roadshows, during the election period.

His final campaign event is likely to take place in the Bhabanipur Assembly constituency in South Kolkata, where a high-profile contest is underway between Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of the All India Trinamool Congress.

The West Bengal Assembly elections will be conducted in two phases on April 23 and April 29, covering all 294 constituencies.

The counting of votes and declaration of results are scheduled for May 4.

QUICK READ

PM Modi hails to Lam's Vietnam victory

India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated To Lam on his election as Vietnam's President, expressing eagerness to strengthen the nations' Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Modi praised the long-standing friendship, saying it will continue to grow under Lam's leadership. Lam, confirmed by Vietnam's National Assembly with full support, previously served briefly as President and leads the Communist Party of Vietnam. India and Vietnam, celebrating 50 years of diplomatic ties, have elevated relations to a strategic level. Modi emphasized working together for regional progress and prosperity, highlighting shared goals under the "Joint Vision for Peace, Prosperity and People."

Ex-speaker Shirin Chaudhury arrested in Dhaka

Dhaka

Bangladeshi police arrested former Parliament Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, the country's first female speaker, from her Dhanmondi residence. She is being interrogated in cases linked to protests in Banani, Uttara, and a 2024 Rangpur shooting that killed gold worker Muslim Uddin. Sixteen others, including former minister Tipu Munshi, are also implicated. Chaudhury served four consecutive terms and stepped down after the Awami League government fell in 2024. The party condemned the arrest, calling it part of ongoing political repression, citing repeated detentions, custodial deaths, and violations of fundamental rights under the BNP-led government.

Pakistan orders early market closures amid crisis

Islamabad

Pakistan has ordered markets and shopping malls to close by 8 pm to save energy amid soaring global fuel prices caused by the Middle East conflict. Bakeries, restaurants, and wedding halls must close by 10 pm, while medical stores remain open. Fuel prices have surged sharply, prompting temporary price cuts and government austerity measures, including a four-day workweek and 20% budget cuts. The crisis follows regional tensions after US-Israel strikes on Iran, disrupting energy supply. Authorities say these steps are essential to manage shortages and reduce economic pressure on households and businesses.

India grants millions to support Bhutan's growth

India strengthens ties with Bhutan, releasing Rs 42.3 crore to support development, culture, infrastructure, and education projects.

THIMPHU

India has strengthened its deep friendship with Bhutan by releasing a fresh grant of Rs 42.3 crore to support the neighboring nation's development. This funding is part of India's massive commitment to Bhutan's 13th Five-Year Plan. During a high-level meeting held in Thimphu, Indian officials handed over the funds to help build bridges, upgrade schools, and preserve the country's unique spiritual heritage.A significant portion of the money, about Rs 16.86 crore, is dedicated to improving facilities for Bhutan's monks and nuns. This will ensure they have safer and better places to live and study, helping to keep their ancient cultural traditions alive. Another large slice of the funding was used for the recently finished Khuru-Kuenphen bridge, a modern structure designed to make travel easier for locals.The partnership also focuses on making roads safer and faster. Over Rs 5 crore was released to upgrade a key 17-km stretch of the Northern East West Highway. Better roads mean shorter travel times and lower costs for drivers. Additionally, India is investing in Bhutan's future leaders by funding the Royal Institute of Management. This money will buy new computers, fix up student housing, and connect the school with top Indian institutions.India has promised a total of Rs 10,000 crore to Bhutan for this plan period. From mega farms to irrigation and job training, the two nations are working hand-in-hand. This latest payment proves that the bond between these two Himalayan neighbors remains rock solid.

Faisalabad's history vanishes under concrete and neglect

FAISALABAD

The soul of Faisalabad is slowly disappearing as dozens of its most iconic historic buildings are being razed to the ground.

Heritage experts are sounding the alarm, warning that administrative neglect and a rush for commercial profit are erasing the city's cultural identity. From ancient temples to colonial rest houses, the physical markers of the subcontinent's shared history are being replaced by shopping plazas and parking lots.

Mian Ajaz Bashir, a senior journalist and art advocate, recently highlighted several heartbreaking losses. Among them is the 1906 Arya Samaj temple in Jhang Bazaar, once a vital spiritual hub, which was demolished for a commercial building. Similarly, a British-era rest house built for weary travelers has been carved into tiny shops, while a historic municipal building now serves as nothing more than a place to park cars.

The destruction even touches the legacy of Pakistan's founders. A residence that famously hosted Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in 1946 has been replaced by a fast-food outlet and a bank. Even libraries and banks from the early 1900s have reportedly been taken over using forged papers and turned into modern developments.

Advocates argue that the government is failing to enforce the Punjab Special Premises Act of 1982, which was designed to protect these very sites. Bashir has urged authorities to immediately review property records and halt illegal encroachments. Without urgent action, the tension between urban growth and history will leave Faisalabad a city without a past, stripping future generations of their heritage.

PAKISTAN GRANTS 2,800 VISAS FOR BAISAKHI PILGRIMS

Lahore Pakistan has issued over 2,800 visas to Indian pilgrims for the upcoming Baisakhi celebrations. Pilgrims will visit important Sikh sites, including Gurdwara Panja Sahib, Gurdwara Nankana Sahib, and Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib. Saad Ahmad Warraich, Pakistan's Charge d'Affaires to India, extended greetings and wished pilgrims a fulfilling spiritual experience. He said the visit shows Pakistan's commitment to promoting cultural and religious harmony and its role in preserving sacred sites with respect and care. The pilgrimage is part of the Bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines, 1974, which allows structured cross-border visits. Baisakhi marks the Sikh harvest festival and the formation of the Khalsa in 1699. Authorities on both sides have coordinated travel, accommodation, and site access to ensure safety and smooth arrangements. The initiative is widely welcomed, offering spiritual growth and stronger cultural ties between the communities.

Nepal foreign minister to attend Indian Ocean meet

KATHMANDU

Shishir Khanal will debut at the Indian Ocean Conference in Mauritius, engaging global leaders on maritime security, climate, and regional cooperation.

Nepal's Foreign Minister, Shishir Khanal, is preparing for a high-profile diplomatic debut at the ninth Indian Ocean Conference in Mauritius this week.

The three-day event will gather global leaders to discuss the future of one of the world's most important maritime regions. This trip marks the first official foreign visit by a Cabinet minister since Prime Minister Balendra Shah's government took office last month.

The conference is a major international platform co-organized by India and Mauritius. While Nepal is a landlocked Himalayan nation, its participation highlights how deeply connected every country is to global trade and security. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lok Bahadur Poudel Chettri confirmed that preparations are underway for the Minister's address. Khanal is expected to meet with several counterparts from across Asia and Africa to strengthen bilateral ties and discuss regional cooperation.

This year's theme, "Collective Stewardship for Indian Ocean Governance," focuses on protecting the environment and ensuring maritime security. Experts, scholars, and government heads will tackle tough challenges like climate change, natural disasters, and shifting geopolitical power. Since its start in 2016, the forum has become a vital space for countries like India, Australia, and Singapore to collaborate on keeping trade routes safe and sustainable.

For Nepal, the summit offers a chance to engage with major global powers on economic development and shared interests. As the Indian Ocean region grows more strategically significant, these talks aim to foster a spirit of partnership that benefits everyone, from the high mountains to the deep sea.

B'desh foreign minister's landmark India visit to reset bilateral ties

DHAKA

Bangladesh's Foreign Minister, Khalilur Rahman, is traveling to New Delhi for a "goodwill visit" aimed at repairing and elevating the relationship between the two neighbors.

This marks the first official trip to India by a Bangladeshi minister since the new government took office in February. Officials in Dhaka believe this meeting will lay a vital foundation for more productive and sustainable cooperation in the coming years.

The visit comes at a sensitive time. Ties had become strained over the last 18 months during an interim period marked by anti-India rhetoric and concerns over the safety of minorities. Now, both nations seem eager to move forward with a "positive and constructive" approach. Minister Rahman is scheduled to meet with India's Foreign Minister and National Security Advisor to discuss stability based on mutual respect and trust.

A major priority for Dhaka is the full restoration of Indian visa services, which have been limited since July 2024 due to security concerns. Many Bangladeshis rely on these visas for medical tourism, and the current restrictions have hit families and businesses hard. Other key topics on the table include energy cooperation, better border management, and long-standing debates over sharing river water.

Before heading to a global conference in Mauritius later this week, the Minister's stop in New Delhi signals a fresh start. Recent high-level meetings between diplomats and military leaders suggest that both sides are ready to focus on shared interests like regional peace and trade.

Japan deepens ties with India

TOTTORI

The Governor of Japan's Tottori Prefecture, Shinji Hirai, has pledged to build a powerful new partnership with India centered on "people-to-people" connections. Known for its stunning sand dunes and rich farming, Tottori is now turning its sights toward Odisha State to create a lasting bond. Governor Hirai, a former high-ranking official, believes that municipal diplomacy—cities talking directly to cities—is the best way to ensure global peace and shared prosperity.The collaboration is already moving fast, going well beyond simple handshakes.

Empty rallies signal end of Khalistan movement?

BRAMPTON

The influence of the banned terror group Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) appears to be collapsing as its recent "referendum" events in Canada failed to attract crowds. Once claiming massive support, the group's latest call for anti-India protests in Brampton and Surrey turned out to be a "damp squib."

While authorities prepared for thousands, witnesses reported as few as twenty people actually showed up, signaling a massive shift in public sentiment.

Intelligence officials say the dwindling numbers prove that the local community is tired of vandalism and see the movement as a "money-making racket" rather than a genuine cause. People are increasingly unwilling to support a group linked to gangsters and criminals. Furthermore, the youth in Punjab have been actively educated about the dangers of the movement, cutting off the group's core base of support.

A major turning point has been the new cooperation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canadian leader Mark Carney. Canada recently passed Bill C-9, a strict law against hate crimes that bans intimidating demonstrations near places of worship. This law, combined with local "safety zones" that keep protesters 100 meters away from temples, has left SFJ leaders frustrated and powerless on the streets.

Experts believe this loss of physical support will push the group to increase its digital attacks and hate videos online. However, with India and Canada now working together to nip these activities in the bud, the era of street intimidation seems to be over. The "lost cause" of Khalistan is finally hitting a dead end.

WHO suspends Gaza evacuations following tragic death

GENEVA

The World Health Organization (WHO) has officially halted all medical evacuations from Gaza after a contract worker was killed in a violent "security incident." Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced the suspension, noting that while two other staff members at the scene were unharmed, the risks have become too great. This move effectively freezes the critical lifeline used to transport severely ill and injured patients to Egypt for life-saving surgery.The suspension comes at a devastating time for Gaza's healthcare system, which is already on the brink of total collapse. With specialized care unavailable locally, these transfers through the Rafah crossing were the only hope for many.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

	7		3	5		8		
	3	8	7	1	4		6	9
6	4	5				7	1	3
5	8		1			4		
		2			9	3		7
3	9		4	7	8	2		1
9	5		2	4		6		8
	6		8	9		1		2
8		1	6		7		4	5

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3X3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Every puzzle has only on correct solution.

MEASLES CRISIS

Lethal measles outbreak claims over 100 lives

DHAKA

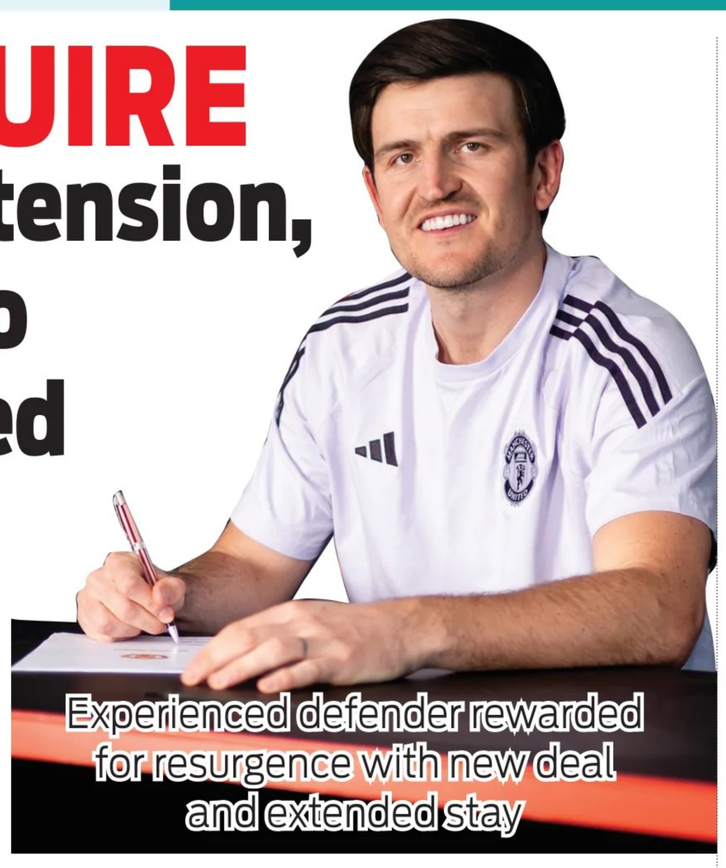
A devastating measles outbreak is sweeping through Bangladesh, claiming at least 118 lives since mid-March. The country's health department confirmed that the vast majority of these victims are children.

Over 2,000 suspected patients are fighting for their lives in hospitals across the nation. The situation has become so critical that medical experts are calling for immediate and massive reform to the country's struggling healthcare system.

Health officials have traced the root of this crisis back to a series of administrative failures over the past two years. According to former health director Benazir Ahmed, the previous interim government's decision to cancel key funding programs led to a severe vaccine shortage. This was made worse by several worker strikes in 2025 and the cancellation of a major immunization campaign that was supposed to happen last year. Because of these delays, some regions were forced to ration life-saving shots starting in January.

At the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital alone, 42 deaths have been reported, highlighting how quickly the virus is spreading in crowded areas. Public health experts warn that measles is incredibly contagious, with one infected person capable of passing the disease to nearly 18 others.While the government has now launched an emergency vaccination drive, specialists say these "band-aid" solutions are not enough. They argue that without steady funding and a reliable supply chain, more children will remain at risk. As the nation marks World Health Day, the focus remains on stopping the spread and protecting the next generation.

HARRY MAGUIRE signs contract extension, commits future to Manchester United



MANCHESTER

Harry Maguire has signed a one-year contract extension with Manchester United, with an option to prolong his stay by a further 12 months, securing his future at Old Trafford beyond the current season.

The 33-year-old defender, whose previous deal was set to expire at the end of the campaign, has earned the extension following a strong resurgence after a challenging period at the club. Once considered surplus to requirements, Maguire has re-established himself as a key figure in the squad through consistent performances and leadership.

Manchester United's director of football, Jason Wilcox, praised Maguire's professionalism and influence within the team. "Harry represents the mentality and resilience required to perform at this club. He brings invaluable experience and leadership to a young and ambitious squad," Wilcox said.

Maguire joined United in 2019 from Leicester City in a deal worth around $97 million, then a world-record fee for a defender. Since then, he has made 266 appearances for the club and played a vital role in their domestic success, including triumphs in the FA Cup and League Cup.

After losing his regular starting position under former manager Erik ten Hag in 2023, Maguire's future at the club appeared uncertain. However, his determination and work ethic have helped him regain form and confidence, earning him renewed trust at both club and international levels.

His improved performances have also led to a recall to the England national football team setup ahead of the upcoming World Cup, underlining his return to prominence.

Expressing his delight, Maguire described playing for Manchester United as "the ultimate honour." He added that representing the club brings immense pride to him and his family and reaffirmed his commitment to contributing to future success.

With this extension, Maguire is set to complete at least eight seasons at Old Trafford, continuing his journey with one of football's most storied clubs while aiming to add more silverware and memorable moments.

Pankaj Advani conquers pool, adds new chapter to illustrious career

BENGALURU

India's cue sports legend Pankaj Advani has once again demonstrated his extraordinary versatility, making a sensational debut in pool by clinching both the 9-ball and 10-ball titles at the National Championships in Ludhiana.

Known for his dominance in billiards and snooker, Advani had largely stayed away from pool throughout his decorated career, which includes over 28 world titles. His unexpected entry into the national pool championships raised eyebrows, but the Bengaluru-based star quickly turned curiosity into admiration with a remarkable performance.

Initially approaching the tournament with no expectations, Advani admitted he was simply exploring a new format of the sport. However, after a slow start, he found his rhythm and elevated his game significantly as the competition progressed.

In the 9-ball final, Advani defeated Nitin Sharma 11-6 with a composed and controlled display. He followed it up with a gripping 11-9 victory over Pushpender Singh in the 10-ball final, showcasing his ability to adapt and excel under pressure. The twin triumphs made him only the second Indian cueist after Alok Kumar to achieve a rare Grand Slam of national titles across cue sports disciplines.

Reflecting on his achievement, Advani described the experience as surreal and "like a fairytale," admitting that even reaching the latter stages would have exceeded his expectations. Winning both events on debut, however, was beyond anything he had imagined.

Despite his success, Advani remains measured about his future in pool. While he acknowledged the format's excitement and global appeal, he indicated that his primary focus would continue to be on billiards and snooker, disciplines where he has built his legacy.

"I just want to enjoy these victories for now," he said, adding that he may consider participating in select international pool events, particularly in the Middle East, where competition is intense.

Up next for Advani is the IBSF World Billiards Championship in Carlow from April 24 to 29, where he will aim to further extend his dominance on the global stage.

With this latest feat, Advani continues to redefine excellence in cue sports, proving his mastery transcends formats.

Tehran seeks venue change citing security concerns amid ongoing regional tensions

Iran awaits FIFA decision on shifting World Cup matches from United States

TEHRAN

Iran is awaiting a response from FIFA regarding its request to relocate World Cup matches from the United States to Mexico, with participation in the tournament hinging on the outcome.

The Iranian football federation has formally sought a venue change for its group-stage fixtures, citing security concerns linked to ongoing geopolitical tensions in the region. The request comes amid Iran's broader policy restricting travel by national teams to countries it considers hostile.

Iran's Minister of Sport, Ahmad Donyamali, said the government would take a final call on participation only after FIFA responds. "If our request is accepted, Iran's presence in the World Cup will be certain. However, we are still awaiting an official reply," he said in an interview.

Iran are currently scheduled to play all their Group G matches on American soil, including fixtures in Los Angeles and Seattle. Their opponents include New Zealand, Belgium, and Egypt.

Despite the concerns raised by Tehran, Gianni Infantino recently indicated that Iran's matches would proceed as originally scheduled. However, Iranian authorities remain unconvinced, stressing the need for firm security assurances before committing to travel.

The situation has been further complicated by remarks from Donald Trump, who said Iran's team would be welcome in the United States but raised questions about safety in the current climate. He later clarified that any potential threats would not originate from the US.

Donyamali reiterated that ensuring player safety is paramount and noted that providing guarantees in the limited time before the tournament could prove challenging. "According to FIFA regulations, security must be ensured by the host nation, but under present circumstances, this remains uncertain," he said.

The FIFA World Cup 2026 is scheduled to be jointly hosted by the United States, Mexico, and Canada from June 11 to July 19.

With time running out, Iran's participation remains in doubt, pending FIFA's decision on the proposed venue switch.

Elderly fan dies after cardiac arrest during Bundesliga match in Frankfurt

FRANKFURT

A long-time supporter of Eintracht Frankfurt has died after suffering a cardiac arrest during a Bundesliga match against , the club confirmed on Tuesday.

The 87-year-old fan, who has not been publicly identified, fell ill during the second half of Sunday's 2-2 draw in Frankfurt. Medical personnel rushed to his aid in the stands, and the stadium atmosphere turned somber as supporters watched in silence while emergency services worked to revive him.

According to the club, the fan was successfully resuscitated at the stadium before being transported to hospital. However, despite continued medical efforts, his condition could not be stabilised, and he passed away hours later.

In an official statement, Eintracht Frankfurt expressed deep condolences, noting that the supporter had been a loyal member of the club for many years and held a season ticket. "Our thoughts and sympathy are with his family and friends," the statement read, while also thanking emergency responders and spectators for their sensitivity during the incident. Players from both sides, including Frankfurt and Cologne, continued the match under subdued conditions following the medical emergency. The incident cast a shadow over the fixture, with fans refraining from chants as the seriousness of the situation became clear.

Such occurrences, though rare, have prompted increasing focus on medical preparedness at sporting venues. Quick response times and the availability of trained personnel and equipment are considered critical in handling emergencies of this nature.

The tragedy follows a similar incident earlier this season during a German Cup match involving RB Leipzig and Energie Cottbus, where a fan died after falling ill while entering the stadium. On that occasion too, the atmosphere was muted as supporters from both teams showed respect.

Sunday's events in Frankfurt served as a stark reminder that moments of joy in sport can be overshadowed by human tragedy, uniting players and fans alike in grief and solidarity.

Juventus beat Genoa to tighten grip on Serie A top-four race

Early goals and strong defense help Juventus boost Champions League hopes

MILAN

Juventus strengthened their push for a top-four finish in Serie A with a commanding 2-0 victory over Genoa, moving to within a point of the Champions League qualification spots.

Capitalising on Como's goalless draw against Udinese earlier in the day, Juventus made a strong start in Turin. Defender Gleison Bremer opened the scoring in just the fourth minute with a deflected header, setting the tone for the hosts.

Midfielder Weston McKennie doubled the lead in the 17th minute, finishing off a well-worked move involving Francisco Conceicao. The early goals allowed Juventus to take control, though Genoa showed resilience as the match progressed.

Goalkeeper Michele Di Gregorio proved crucial in preserving the lead, producing a stunning double save to deny Genoa a route back into the contest. He first parried away a penalty from Aaron Martin before reacting sharply to stop a follow-up effort from Vitinha, drawing applause from the home crowd.

The win marks a fifth consecutive unbeaten match for Juventus under coach Luciano Spalletti, who was brought in with the primary aim of restoring the club to Europe's elite competition. With momentum building, Juventus now sit just one point behind the top four.

The result also widened the gap to AS Roma, who remain sixth after a heavy defeat to league leaders Inter Milan. Juventus are also four points clear of Atalanta, setting up a crucial upcoming clash between the two sides.

Despite the defeat, Genoa, managed by Daniele De Rossi, remain relatively safe from relegation, sitting six points above the drop zone.

With the Serie A season entering its decisive phase, Juventus appear to be peaking at the right time, combining defensive solidity with clinical finishing as they chase a return to the Champions League.

Alcaraz eager for clay return, targets strong build-up to French Open

MONACO

World number one Carlos Alcaraz has expressed his excitement at returning to clay courts, declaring he is ready to "get his socks dirty again" as he begins preparations for his French Open title defence.

After a dominant 2025 season on clay, Alcaraz is looking to rediscover his rhythm on his favourite surface during the European swing. Speaking ahead of his campaign in Monte Carlo Masters, the Spaniard said the clay season remains the most special part of the calendar for him.

"This is one of the best times of the year for me. I always miss clay when the season ends," Alcaraz said, reflecting on his return after several months away from the surface since his triumph at Roland Garros last June.

The 22-year-old enjoyed a stellar run last year, clinching multiple clay titles and building momentum that culminated in his French Open victory, where he defeated Jannik Sinner in a memorable final. His performances also included strong showings in Barcelona Open and Italian Open.

Alcaraz plans a packed schedule leading up to Roland Garros, aiming to compete in Monte Carlo, Barcelona, Madrid, and Rome. Despite acknowledging the physical and mental demands of such a run, he remains committed to maintaining peak fitness.

"It's a demanding stretch, but I want to play as much as possible and take care of my body," he said, noting that Barcelona holds particular significance for him despite the tight schedule.

The Spaniard also highlighted the importance of last year's Monte Carlo tournament in shaping his approach on clay. "That week helped me understand my game better, and from there I kept improving," he added. Alcaraz will begin his Monte Carlo campaign in the second round, where he is set to face either Stan Wawrinka or Sebastian Baez.

With confidence high and form on his side, Alcaraz now turns his focus to building momentum once again on clay as he eyes another successful run in Paris.

Michigan clinches second NCAA title, edges UConn in gritty final

INDIANAPOLIS

Michigan Wolverines men's basketball powered through a bruising contest to defeat UConn Huskies men's basketball 69-63 and capture their second NCAA men's basketball national championship, ending a decades-long wait with a performance built on resilience rather than flair.

In a game far removed from their high-scoring tournament run, Michigan relied on defensive grit and composure under pressure to secure the title—the program's first since 1989. The victory also marked a significant milestone for the Big Ten, which had not produced a men's champion since 2000.

Leading the charge was Elliot Cadeau, who was named Final Four's Most Outstanding Player after scoring 19 points. Cadeau's timely contributions included Michigan's first three-pointer deep into the second half, setting the tone in a contest where scoring proved difficult.

Freshman Trey McKenney delivered a decisive blow late in the game, sinking a crucial three-pointer with under two minutes remaining to extend Michigan's lead. He later sealed the win from the free-throw line as the Wolverines converted an impressive 25 of 28 attempts.

UConn, led by Alex Karaban with 17 points, refused to back down. A late three-pointer from Solo Ball brought the Huskies within striking distance, but missed opportunities in the closing seconds dashed their hopes of a comeback. Michigan's triumph came despite struggles from beyond the arc, finishing just 2-of-15 on three-point attempts. Star forward Yaxel Lendeborg, hampered by injury, managed 13 points but was far from his dominant best.

Head coach Dusty May credited the team's defensive unity, noting that the Wolverines held UConn to just over 30 percent shooting—the fourth straight opponent they restricted to a season-low efficiency.

QUICK READ

Skoda boosts Taigun production under make India

PUNE

Skoda Auto Volkswagen India has started production of the updated Volkswagen Taigun at its Pune plant, strengthening the 'Make in India' push. The SUV, part of the India 2.0 project, is designed for Indian customers while meeting global standards. Officials said the move will boost the company's presence in the mid-size SUV market. The Pune facility will also export vehicles to international markets, highlighting India's manufacturing strength. The expansion is expected to create jobs and support local suppliers. The company believes the refreshed Taigun will attract buyers seeking quality, safety, and performance.

India Japan MSME ties to boost growth

NEW DELHI

A new report highlights that partnerships between Indian MSMEs and Japanese firms could drive the next phase of economic growth. As global supply chains shift, India is emerging as a key investment hub for Japan's mid-sized companies. Sectors like semiconductors, electronics, food processing, and bamboo industries show strong potential for collaboration. The India-Japan Joint Vision encourages deeper business ties and investments. With over 1,500 Japanese firms already operating in India, experts believe such partnerships will expand exports, create jobs, and strengthen supply chains. India's large market and trade links make it an attractive destination for long-term growth.

Markets tense amid Hormuz deal uncertainty

LONDON

Global markets remained cautious as uncertainty over a possible deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz kept investors on edge. Rising tensions between the United States and Iran, along with a looming deadline set by President Donald Trump, have increased fears of further conflict. Stocks showed little movement, while the dollar stayed firm. Oil prices surged sharply, with Brent crude rising significantly since the conflict began. Investors are waiting for clarity, as any breakthrough or escalation could impact global trade and energy supplies. For now, markets remain watchful, reflecting growing concern over the ongoing geopolitical situation.

Samsung Q1 profit soars on AI chip demand

SEOUL

Samsung Electronics reported record first-quarter earnings, with operating profit soaring 755% to 57.2 trillion won ($38 billion) and revenue reaching 133 trillion won ($88.7 billion). Analysts credited strong demand for AI-related memory chips and rising DRAM prices for the exceptional performance. The chip division alone contributed an estimated 37–48 trillion won ($24.7–32 billion) in profit. DRAM prices are expected to rise further this year, sustaining growth. Samsung has expanded production of high-end memory.

Oil prices skyrocket as global tensions rise

Oil prices surge over 3% as US-Iran tensions and a vital waterway standoff spark worldwide energy fears

NEW DELHI

Gas station prices may soon pinch pockets everywhere as global crude oil costs jumped over 3%. This sudden spike follows a tense standoff between the United States and Iran, leaving the world's energy markets on edge.

The surge is tied to a strict deadline set by U.S. President Donald Trump. In aggressive social media posts, the President demanded that Iran reopen the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow but vital water passage. This small strip of sea is responsible for moving about twenty percent of the entire world's oil supply. The President warned of severe military consequences if the deadline passed without a deal, causing immediate panic among global oil traders.

Market data shows that Brent crude hit a high of $111.63, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate futures climbed past $116.87. Since this conflict began in late February, oil prices have already soared nearly 90 percent for the year. While prices fluctuate, they are currently averaging around the $100 mark, a heavy burden for the global economy.

Iran has reportedly rejected the proposed ceasefire, choosing to stand its ground against U.S. pressure. This friction is also shaking up the stock markets. In India, the Sensex and Nifty both dropped by 1 percent as investors grew nervous. While some markets in the U.S. remained slightly positive, Asian markets showed mixed results. For now, the world watches the clock, hoping for a peaceful resolution before energy costs climb even higher for everyday families.

INDIA ADVANCES NUCLEAR POWER WITH MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH

NEW DELHI

India's journey toward energy independence reached a historic milestone this week as the nation's first Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) officially started its power-generating process. Located in Kalpakkam, this advanced 500-megawatt reactor achieved "criticality", meaning it has successfully begun a controlled nuclear chain reaction to produce consistent, low-carbon electricity. Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the achievement as a "defining step" for the country.

This specific type of reactor is revolutionary because it is designed to produce more fuel than it actually consumes. By converting

India's first Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor in Kalpakkam achieved criticality, marking a historic leap in self-reliant, sustainable nuclear energy using advanced indigenous liquid sodium technology.

common materials into usable energy, the facility showcases India's immense scientific growth. It serves as a vital bridge toward the nation's long-term goal, tapping into its massive thorium reserves to provide clean, reliable power for future generations.Built entirely within India by the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research and BHAVINI, the project is a shining example of the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" or self-reliant India initiative. Unlike older models, this reactor uses liquid sodium for cooling and features a closed fuel cycle. This high-tech approach significantly reduces nuclear waste while boosting thermal efficiency, making it a much greener option for the environment.Government officials emphasized that this breakthrough ensures long-term energy security.

By recycling nuclear materials, India can generate steady "base-load" power that doesn't rely on weather conditions. As the nation celebrates this engineering triumph.

Aluminium production cuts spark global supply concerns

NEW DELHI

India's aluminium industry is feeling the heat of the growing crisis in West Asia, leading to a massive drop in production. According to the Aluminium Extrusion Manufacturers Association of India (ALEMAI), factories across the country have been forced to slash their output by nearly half. This sudden slowdown is a direct result of broken supply chains and rising tensions in a region critical to global trade.Before the conflict escalated, the industry was a powerhouse, producing around 1.3 million tonnes of aluminium extrusions every year.

Demand for shop space high despite shortage

NEW DELHI

India's shopping scene is buzzing with energy, even though new malls are becoming harder to find. Fresh reports reveals that retail leasing across the country's top eight cities stayed steady at 1.95 million square feet during the first quarter of 2026.

While these numbers are slightly lower than last year, experts say the appetite for space remains incredibly strong.

The main challenge right now isn't a lack of interest from brands, but a lack of available buildings. Because few new malls opened recently, shops are fighting over the best spots. Interestingly, malls captured nearly half of all leasing activity, showing that

brands still value these large hubs. Meanwhile, bustling main streets continue to be the top choice for retailers, making up 53 percent of the market due to their high visibility.

Delhi led the charge, claiming 30 percent of the total leasing space, followed closely by Hyderabad and Mumbai. When it comes to what people are buying, fashion and food were the biggest winners, accounting for nearly half of all new deals. Entertainment centers are also growing fast as malls focus on fun experiences for families.Looking ahead, the market is expected to get a boost as premium developments finally open their doors later this year. For now, the message is clear: retailers are eager to grow, but they are waiting for more high-quality space to become available. India's retail world is currently a high-demand environment where quality remains the ultimate prize.

Air India hiked fuel surcharges as jet fuel prices doubled, increasing costs for domestic travelers and long-haul flights.

Air India raises fares as fuel costs surge

NEW DELHI

Travelers will soon face higher ticket prices as Air India announced a mandatory fuel surcharge hike for both domestic and international flights.

This decision comes as the aviation industry grapples with a massive global spike in jet fuel costs, which have nearly doubled in just one month.On domestic routes, the airline is moving away from a flat fee to a distance-based system. Passengers flying short distances under 500 kilometers will pay an extra Rs 299, while those traveling over 2,000 kilometers will see a surcharge of Rs 899. Although the government has capped domestic fuel price increases at 25 percent to protect consumers, international travel remains much more expensive because no such price controls exist for overseas flights.The cost of jet fuel reached a staggering $195.19 per barrel in late March, a sharp rise from under $100 in February. Because of this, international surcharges will vary greatly depending on the destination. Flights to nearby SAARC countries will increase by roughly $24, while long-haul trips to North America or Australia will see a steep hike of $280.Air India stated that even with these new fees, they are still absorbing a large portion of the rising costs to keep seats filled. Fortunately for early birds, tickets already purchased will remain at their original price unless the traveler makes changes to their itinerary. Following similar moves by competitors like IndiGo, this shift marks a challenging new chapter for global travel and holiday budgets.

AIR INDIA CEO STEPS DOWN AFTER TRANSFORMATION

NEW DELHI: Air India has confirmed that its Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Campbell Wilson, will step down from his role. The airline announced that a committee has been formed to find his successor in the coming months. Wilson had informed Chairman N. Chandrasekaran about his plan to resign back in 2024 and has since focused on ensuring a smooth transition. He will continue in his position until a new CEO takes charge. During his tenure, Wilson led major changes after privatisation. These include merging four airlines, upgrading systems, improving services, and adding over 100 aircraft to the fleet. Chandrasekaran praised Wilson's leadership, noting his efforts in guiding the airline through challenges like post-Covid disruptions and global uncertainties while helping shape a stronger, modern Air India.

RBI likely to hold rates amid global war

NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India is expected to keep interest rates steady this week as it balances a weakening currency against the pressure of global conflict. With the Iran war clouding the economic outlook, all thirty economists surveyed believe the central bank will maintain the repo rate at 5.25%. This decision comes at a critical time for India, as the nation grapples with rising energy costs and a volatile rupee.Governor Sanjay Malhotra faces a difficult dilemma. The rupee has dropped significantly over the past year, becoming Asia's worst-performing currency. While raising rates could help support the rupee, doing so might hurt India's economic growth. Currently, the RBI is using other aggressive measures to stop currency speculation, such as capping bank positions. There is also talk of opening a special "dollar window" for oil companies to ease the pressure on the market.The war has also forced experts to rethink India's growth numbers. Because the country relies heavily on the Middle East for crude oil and cooking gas, the closure of shipping routes is a major blow. Some analysts have already lowered their growth forecasts to below 6.5 percent,fearing that expensive.

Rupee dips 10 paise amid dollar pressure

Mumbai: The Indian rupee fell by 10 paise, closing at 93.00 against the US dollar, reflecting ongoing market caution. Investors are closely watching geopolitical developments, including a deadline set by US President Donald Trump regarding the Strait of Hormuz, as well as the Reserve Bank of India's upcoming monetary policy review. Forex traders noted that the rupee is under pressure due to steady foreign capital outflows, a strong US dollar, and rising crude oil prices. The combination of these factors has added to volatility in the currency market.

CONVENIENCE OVER COST

Speed beats discounts, shoppers chase convenience

NEW DELHI

The way we shop is changing forever. While low prices used to be the main goal for Indian shoppers, a new report shows that speed and ease are now taking the lead.

According to Grant Thornton Bharat, over 70% of people say they will keep using quick commerce apps even if those tempting discounts disappear.For many, the "need it now" factor outweighs the cost. About 45 percent of shoppers use these fast delivery services for urgent needs, while others rely on them for daily items like milk or late-night snacks. This shift has

pushed traditional neighborhood kirana stores into a tough spot. About half of consumers say they visit their local shops less often than they did last year.However, the local kirana is not disappearing. These small shops remain the heart of many communities, built on years of trust. Interestingly, the report found that many shopkeepers are ready to join the digital age. Around 40 percent of retailers want to partner with quick delivery platforms, though some are still figuring out how the technology works.While almost every small shop now accepts UPI or QR code payments, moving to advanced digital tools for tracking stock remains a challenge due to high costs. The future of Indian retail seems to be a mix of both worlds. Whether it is a quick tap on a phone or a friendly chat at the corner store, convenience is now the king of the market.

NO MORE CASH AT HIGHWAY TOLL PLAZAS

NEW DELHI

The era of paying with paper notes at national highway toll plazas will officially come to an end.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has announced that cash payments will be completely discontinued to ensure faster travel.

This bold move is designed to eliminate long queues and make highway journeys smoother for millions of commuters across the country. According to a new government notification, every vehicle must now use a valid FASTag to pass through toll gates. However, the government has provided a small safety net for those caught without one.

If a traveler enters a toll lane without a working FASTag, they will still be allowed to pay using a UPI QR code.

The catch is that this convenience comes with a heavy price tag.

UPI payments at the booth will cost 1.25 times the standard toll fee, acting as a penalty for not having the required electronic tag.

Senior officials from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) explained that the goal is to reach 100 percent electronic collection.

IPL 2026

Lalit Modi criticises BCCI over IPL format, claims ₹2,400 crore loss

Former IPL chief says reduced matches hurting league revenue and franchise valuations

NEW DELHI

Former Lalit Modi has strongly criticised the Board of Control for Cricket in India, claiming the Indian Premier League is incurring an annual loss of around ₹2,400 crore due to deviation from its original format.

Modi argued that the league's current structure, which features 74 matches in the league stage, falls short of the initially envisioned full home-and-away system. According to him, each of the 10 teams was meant to play one another twice, resulting in a 90-match league phase, followed by knockout fixtures.

"The home-and-away format is where the real value lies. That is what was originally sold," Modi said, expressing concern that the existing model deprives franchises of crucial revenue opportunities. He added that reducing the number of matches effectively cuts into both central revenue and team earnings.

Highlighting the financial implications, Modi explained that each IPL match generates significant media rights income, with revenue shared equally between the BCCI and franchises. By not conducting the additional matches, he claimed, the league is missing out on thousands of crores annually.

"If there were close to 90-plus matches under a full home-and-away structure, media rights alone would bring in an extra ₹2,400 crore," he said. "Out of this, nearly ₹1,200 crore would go to the teams, substantially boosting their valuations."

Modi also questioned whether all stakeholders had agreed to the current format, suggesting that the deviation may not align with initial contractual expectations. He emphasised that franchise owners invest heavily based on the promise of a certain number of matches and corresponding returns.

Despite his criticism, Modi acknowledged the IPL's remarkable growth, especially following high-value franchise deals involving teams like Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Rajasthan Royals. However, he maintained that sustaining and enhancing the league's value requires adherence to its foundational structure.

Mitchell Starc setback hits Delhi Capitals, pacer likely out longer

Injury concerns delay Australian pacer's return, testing Delhi Capitals' bowling depth

NEW DELHI

Delhi Capitals have been dealt a significant setback in the Indian Premier League 2026, with star pacer Mitchell Starc set to remain unavailable for an extended period due to injury, according to reports.

Starc, who is recovering from shoulder and elbow issues, is expected to miss at least three more matches and may only join the squad after April 20. His absence comes despite Delhi Capitals making a strong start to their campaign under new captain Axar Patel, securing wins in their opening two fixtures.

The team is scheduled to face Gujarat Titans, Chennai Super Kings, and Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the coming days, matches that will test their bowling resources in Starc's continued absence.

In his place, the pace attack has been led by Mukesh Kumar and T Natarajan, supported by the spin duo of Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav. While the unit has performed competently so far, Starc's experience and wicket-taking ability at crucial moments remain a significant miss.

The Australian quick, who picked up 14 wickets in the previous season, had earlier addressed criticism regarding his delayed arrival, clarifying that his absence was purely due to injury management rather than lack of commitment. He emphasised that the extent of his injuries became clear only after the Australian summer. Responding to speculation, Starc stated that some opinions in the media were "misinformed" and insisted that managing his fitness was essential for long-term performance. He also expressed regret over missing the initial phase of the tournament, acknowledging the disruption caused to the team and its supporters.

Delhi Capitals had invested heavily in Starc during the 2025 auction, underlining his importance to their plans.

South African star says batting unit must shoulder responsibility after slow start

Klaasen defends SRH bowlers, urges batters to step up in IPL

HYDERABAD

Sunrisers Hyderabad wicketkeeper-batter Heinrich Klaasen has pushed back against criticism of the team's bowling unit, instead pointing to the batters' underperformance as a key reason behind their inconsistent start in the Indian Premier League 2026.

Despite being regarded as one of the most explosive batting line-ups in the tournament, SRH have managed just one win in their first three matches. With analysts highlighting the inexperience in the bowling department—especially in the absence of captain Pat Cummins—Klaasen offered a different perspective on the team's struggles.

According to Klaasen, the batting unit has failed to put up competitive totals, leaving the bowlers with insufficient runs to defend. "We have probably been 40 runs short across the last three games," he said, underlining the gap between expectation and execution.

The absence of Cummins, coupled with an injury to Brydon Carse, has forced SRH to rely on relatively inexperienced bowlers. However, Klaasen believes it is unfair to label the bowling attack as weak, insisting that the responsibility lies equally—if not more—with the batters.

"It is easy to say the bowlers are under pressure, but we haven't done our job with the bat," he explained. "Our role is to consistently post totals in the range of 220 to 230. That's how the team has been structured."

Klaasen pointed out that in matches where SRH reached competitive scores, such as against Kolkata Knight Riders, the bowling unit was better positioned to defend the target. In contrast, sub-par totals in other games exposed the attack and increased pressure on less experienced players. He also emphasised that the pitches in their recent matches have been conducive to batting, making the team's inability to capitalise even more significant.

Parag's tactical maturity earns praise ahead of Royals' MI clash

GUWAHATI

Rajasthan Royals' impressive start to the Indian Premier League 2026 has drawn praise for skipper Riyan Parag, with performance coach Siddhartha Lahiri highlighting the youngster's sharp cricketing mind ahead of their clash against Mumbai Indians.

The Royals have begun their campaign on a high, outclassing Chennai Super Kings in their opening match in Guwahati before edging past Gujarat Titans in a closely fought away encounter. The victories mark a promising start for Parag in his first season as the franchise's full-time captain.

Lahiri credited Parag's composure and decision-making abilities as key factors behind the team's early success. "Even though he is young, his cricketing mind is far more mature. He remains calm under pressure, which is crucial in this format," Lahiri said on Monday.

According to Lahiri, Parag's tactical awareness was evident in the tense final over against Gujarat Titans, where pacer Tushar Deshpande successfully defended 10 runs. The decision to hand him the ball, along with subtle field adjustments, showcased the captain's instinctive understanding of match situations.

"Giving the ball to Tushar was a big call. Before the first delivery, third man was pushed back. The way Rashid Khan played that shot, it could have easily gone for a boundary if the fielder was inside," Lahiri explained, underlining Parag's attention to detail.

Despite the encouraging results, the Royals' camp is wary of getting carried away. Lahiri emphasised the importance of consistency and sticking to established processes in a long tournament like the IPL.

"It's still early days. We have played just two matches, and while we have done well, the challenge is to stay grounded. The focus should remain on executing plans and maintaining balance throughout the season," he added.

With confidence high but caution intact, Rajasthan Royals will look to continue their momentum when they face Mumbai Indians, aiming to build on a strong foundation laid under their young leader.

MUMBAI INDIANS play down Sooryavanshi threat ahead of ROYALS CLASH

GUWAHATI

As anticipation builds for the Indian Premier League 2026 clash between Mumbai Indians and Rajasthan Royals, Mumbai's coaching staff has dismissed the notion that young sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi poses an unfamiliar challenge.

One of the most talked-about match-ups of the contest is expected to be Sooryavanshi's face-off against premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah. The teenage batter has garnered widespread attention for his explosive performances over the past year, emerging as a key figure in the Royals' batting line-up.

However, Mumbai Indians bowling coach Paras Mhambrey believes the youngster is no longer an unknown quantity. "He is not new. This is his second year, so we understand his game," Mhambrey said, downplaying any element of surprise.

While acknowledging Sooryavanshi's talent and impact, Mhambrey stressed that Mumbai's preparation remains consistent regardless of the opponent. "He is a good player, and his performances have been praiseworthy. But our approach does not change for any individual," he added.

The Royals, led by Riyan Parag, have enjoyed a strong start to the season, registering convincing wins over Chennai Super Kings and Gujarat Titans. Their momentum, combined with a balanced squad, makes them formidable opponents heading into the Guwahati fixture.

Mumbai Indians also addressed the perceived "mystery" surrounding leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi, another in-form player for the Royals. Mhambrey dismissed such characterisations, stating that Bishnoi's skills are well known after several seasons in top-level cricket.

"I don't see him as a mystery anymore. Players evolve, and teams study them closely. There is nothing drastically different," he explained, highlighting the analytical preparation modern teams undertake.

Rain plays spoilsport again as Eden Gardens clash ends in stalemate

KOLKATA

For the second consecutive season, rain had the final word at Eden Gardens as the Kolkata Knight Riders versus Punjab Kings clash in Indian Premier League 2026 was abandoned on Monday, leaving both teams to settle for a point each.

The evening had promised much, with Shah Rukh Khan in attendance and fans turning up in encouraging numbers despite KKR's recent struggles. However, persistent showers ensured that only 3.4 overs of play were possible before the contest was halted.

In a surprising move, KKR opted to bat despite forecasts of rain, a decision that quickly backfired. The home side stumbled to 25 for two, with openers Finn Allen and Cameron Green falling early. Both were dismissed by Punjab Kings pacer Xavier Bartlett, who impressed with his sharp burst, extracting movement and troubling the batters.

KKR, already under pressure after consecutive losses, fielded a reshuffled XI in the absence of key players Varun Chakaravarthy and Sunil Narine. Rovman Powell and Navdeep Saini were brought in as replacements, but the changes did little to stabilise the top order.

Skipper Ajinkya Rahane and young Angkrish Raghuvanshi had just begun rebuilding the innings when rain interrupted proceedings. Groundstaff responded swiftly, covering the pitch and outfield in anticipation of a restart, raising brief hopes among spectators.

Those hopes soon faded as the drizzle intensified into steady rain accompanied by gusty winds. Water began accumulating on the covers, and the outfield showed no signs of recovery despite continued efforts. The stands gradually emptied as fans sought shelter from the relentless downpour.

With conditions failing to improve, match referee Javagal Srinath eventually called off the game, confirming a familiar outcome. Incidentally, the corresponding fixture between the two sides at the same venue last season had also been washed out.

A year on, the story remained unchanged—Eden Gardens once again left at the mercy of the rain.

Indian women's hockey team to tour Argentina for four-match series

NEW DELHI

The India women's national field hockey team is set to tour Argentina for a four-match series later this month, as part of its preparations for major international tournaments in 2026.

The matches will be played on April 13, 14, 16, and 17 at the National Centre of High Performance Athletics (CeNARD) in Buenos Aires. The tour is expected to provide the team with valuable exposure against one of the top-ranked sides in world hockey.

India and Argentina have shared a competitive rivalry in recent years, including a closely contested encounter in the FIH Pro League 2024–25, where the two sides played out a 2-2 draw before the result was decided in a shootout. Such high-intensity matches have contributed to the growing stature of both teams on the global stage.

The upcoming series assumes greater significance as the Indian side gears up for the FIH Hockey World Cup, scheduled to be held in Belgium and the Netherlands from August 15 to 30. It will also serve as a crucial preparatory assignment ahead of the Asian Games 2026 in Aichi–Nagoya later in the year.

Chief coach Sjoerd Marijne emphasised that the tour is aimed at testing the depth and adaptability of the squad. A group of 24 players has been selected, with the intention of providing opportunities to a wider pool of talent.

"This tour is about giving more players the chance to perform at the highest level. Argentina is among the best teams, and such matches will help us evaluate where each player stands," Marijne said.

He also highlighted the importance of teamwork and cohesion, noting that individual brilliance alone would not guarantee a place in the squad. "To earn a spot, players must show they can contribute to the team dynamic and work collectively under pressure," he added.

With four high-tempo matches lined up, the tour offers India a valuable platform to refine strategies, test combinations, and build momentum ahead of a packed international calendar.

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